

*Army Vision: By 2038, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride*



**ARMY**

Serving the people. Securing the land.

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
**NEWS CLIPPINGS**

07 February 2017

**Tuesday**

*Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.*



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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
Department of Science and Technology  
Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and  
Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)  
Weather Division  
ISO 9001:2008 Certified  
Registry No. 01 100 1534769

**24- HOUR PUBLIC WEATHER FORECAST**

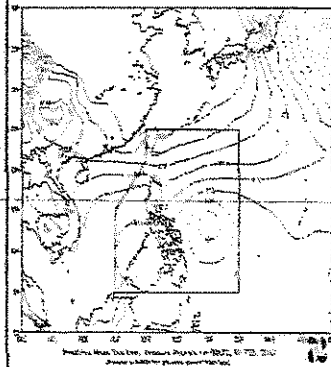
ISSUED AT: 5:00 AM 07 FEBRUARY 2017

VALID BEGINNING: 5:00 AM TODAY UNTIL 5:00 AM TOMORROW

**SYNOPSIS:** AT 4:00 AM TODAY, THE LOW PRESSURE AREA (LPA) (FORMERLY "BISING") WAS ESTIMATED BASED ON ALL AVAILABLE DATA AT 725 KM EAST OF JUBAN, SORSOGON (13.8°N, 130.6°E). NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING NORTHERN AND CENTRAL LUZON.

**FORECAST:** CLOUDY SKIES WITH LIGHT TO MODERATE RAINS AND ISOLATED THUNDERSTORMS WILL BE EXPERIENCED OVER EASTERN VISAYAS, CARAGA AND THE PROVINCE OF PALAWAN. CLOUDY SKIES WITH LIGHT RAINS IS EXPECTED OVER CAGAYAN VALLEY REGION. PARTLY CLOUDY TO CLOUDY SKIES WITH ISOLATED LIGHT RAINS WILL PREVAIL OVER METRO MANILA AND THE REST OF LUZON. PARTLY CLOUDY TO CLOUDY SKIES WITH ISOLATED RAINSHOWERS OR THUNDERSTORMS WILL BE EXPERIENCED OVER THE REST OF THE COUNTRY.

MODERATE TO STRONG WINDS BLOWING FROM THE NORTHEAST TO NORTH WILL PREVAIL OVER LUZON AND EASTERN VISAYAS. THE COASTAL WATERS ALONG THESE AREAS WILL BE MODERATE TO ROUGH. ELSEWHERE, WINDS WILL BE LIGHT TO MODERATE COMING FROM THE NORTH TO NORTHWEST WITH SLIGHT TO MODERATE SEAS.



**PAGTAYA:** MAULAP NA KALANGITAN NA MAY MAHINA HANGGANG SA KATAMTAMANG MGA PAG-ULAN AT PULU-PULONG PAGKIDLAT-PAGKULOG ANG MARARANASAN SA SILANGANG KABISAYAAN, CARAGA AT SA LALAWIGAN NG PALAWAN. MAULAP NA KALANGITAN NA MAY MAHINANG MGA PAG-ULAN ANG INAASAHAN SA REHIYON NG CAGAYAN VALLEY. BAHAGYANG MAULAP HANGGANG SA MAULAP NA KALANGITAN NA MAY PULU-PULONG MGA MAHIHINANG PAG-ULAN ANG IIRAL SA KAMAYNILAAN AT SA NALALABING BAHAGI NG LUZON. BAHAGYANG MAULAP HANGGANG SA MAULAP NA KALANGITAN NA MAY PULU-PULONG MGA PAG-ULAN O PAGKIDKAT-PAGKULOG ANG MARARANASAN SA NALALABING BAHAGI NG BANSA.

KATAMTAMAN HANGGANG SA MALAKAS NA HANGIN MULA SA HILAGANG-SILANGAN HANGGANG HILAGA ANG IIRAL SA LUZON AT SILANGANG KABISAYAAN. ANG MGA BAYBAYING-DAGAT SA MGA LUGAR NA ITO AY MAGIGING KATAMTAMAN HANGGANG SA MAALON. SA IBANG DAKO, ANG HANGIN AY MAGIGING MAHINA HANGGANG SA KATAMTAMAN MULA SA HILAGA HANGGANG HILAGANG-KANLURAN NA MAY BANAYAD HANGGANG SA KATAMTAMANG PAG-ALON NG KARAGATAN.

**EXTREMES OF TEMPERATURE AND RELATIVE HUMIDITY FOR THE 24-HR PERIOD ENDING AT 8:00 PM YESTERDAY AND RECORDED AT PAGASA WEATHER STATION, SCIENCE GARDEN, DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY:**

<b>MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE:</b> 3:30 PM YESTERDAY ..... 30.4 °C		<b>MAXIMUM RELATIVE HUMIDITY:</b> 6:00 AM YESTERDAY ..... 86 %	
<b>MINIMUM TEMPERATURE:</b> 6:00 AM YESTERDAY ..... 21.8 °C		<b>MINIMUM RELATIVE HUMIDITY:</b> 3:00 PM YESTERDAY ..... 51 %	
<b>TIDAL PREDICTION ALONG MANILA BAY (COURTESY OF NAMRIA)</b>		<b>ASTRONOMICAL INFORMATION OVER METRO MANILA</b>	
<b>HIGH TIDE TODAY:</b> 6:55 PM ..... 1.00 METER	<b>SUNSET/ SUNRISE</b>		<b>MOONRISE/ MOONSET &amp; ILLUMINATION</b>
<b>LOW TIDE TOMORROW:</b> 3:41 AM ..... -0.10 METER	<b>SUNRISE TODAY:</b> 6:23 AM	<b>MOONRISE TODAY:</b> 2:25 PM	
	<b>SUNSET TODAY:</b> 5:58 PM	<b>MOONSET TOMORROW:</b> 3:35 AM	
		<b>ILLUMINATION TODAY:</b> 77%	

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND QUERIES, PLEASE CALL AT TELEPHONE NUMBER 927-1335 OR LOG ON TO [WWW.PAGASA.DOST.GOV.PH](http://WWW.PAGASA.DOST.GOV.PH).

PREPARED BY: LADC

CHECKED BY: MLM



Republic of the Philippines  
 Department of Science and Technology  
**PHILIPPINE ATMOSPHERIC, GEOPHYSICAL AND  
 ASTRONOMICAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (PAGASA)**  
 Weather Division  
 ISO 9001:2008 Certified  
 Registry No. 01 100 1534769

WFS-02  
Rev.1/05-06-2016

**24-Hour Weather Forecast and Extended Weather Outlook for Selected Cities:**

ISSUED AT : 5:00 AM 07 FEBRUARY 2017  
 VALID BEGINNING : 5:00 AM TODAY UNTIL 5:00 AM TOMORROW

CITIES	24-Hr Weather, Winds and Sea Condition Forecast from 5 AM today until 5 AM tomorrow		Extended Weather Outlook Duration: 5 AM until 5 AM of the following day			
	07 FEB		8 FEB	9 FEB	10 FEB	11 FEB
	Metro Manila	23 °C 30 °C	Moderate: Northeast Manila Bay: Moderate	23 °C 30 °C	22 °C 30 °C	22 °C 29 °C
Tuguegarao City	21 °C 28 °C	Moderate to Strong: Northeast	22 °C 29 °C	21 °C 28 °C	21 °C 28 °C	21 °C 28 °C
Laoag City	23 °C 30 °C	Moderate to Strong: Northeast Coastal Waters: Moderate to Rough	23 °C 31 °C	23 °C 31 °C	22 °C 30 °C	22 °C 29 °C
Baguio City	12 °C 22 °C	Mod to Occ. Strong: Northeast	13 °C 22 °C	13 °C 22 °C	12 °C 22 °C	12 °C 21 °C
SBMA(Olongapo) / Clark Zone (Angeles City)	23 °C 30 °C	Moderate: Northeast Subic Bay: Moderate	23 °C 30 °C	22 °C 31 °C	22 °C 30 °C	21 °C 29 °C
Tagaytay City	19 °C 28 °C	Moderate: Northeast	21 °C 29 °C	21 °C 30 °C	19 °C 28 °C	19 °C 27 °C
Lipa City	22 °C 30 °C	Moderate: Northeast	23 °C 31 °C	23 °C 31 °C	22 °C 30 °C	22 °C 29 °C
Legazpi City	25 °C 29 °C	Moderate to Strong: Northeast to North Coastal Waters: Moderate to Rough	25 °C 30 °C	25 °C 30 °C	24 °C 29 °C	24 °C 29 °C
Puerto Princesa City	24 °C 30 °C	Moderate to Strong: North Coastal Waters: Moderate to Rough	24 °C 30 °C	25 °C 31 °C	24 °C 30 °C	24 °C 30 °C
Iloilo City / Bacolod City	25 °C 30 °C	Moderate: North Coastal Waters: Moderate	25 °C 30 °C	25 °C 30 °C	25 °C 30 °C	25 °C 29 °C
Metro Cebu	24 °C 30 °C	Moderate: Northeast to North Coastal Waters: Moderate	24 °C 30 °C	24 °C 30 °C	24 °C 30 °C	24 °C 30 °C
Tacloban City	24 °C 29 °C	Moderate to Strong: Northeast to North Coastal Waters: Moderate to Rough	24 °C 29 °C	24 °C 30 °C	23 °C 30 °C	23 °C 29 °C
Cagayan de Oro City	23 °C 29 °C	Light to Moderate: North to Northwest Coastal Waters: Slight to Moderate	23 °C 29 °C	23 °C 29 °C	23 °C 29 °C	23 °C 29 °C
Valencia City	20 °C 28 °C	Light to Moderate: North to Northwest	19 °C 29 °C	20 °C 29 °C	19 °C 29 °C	19 °C 28 °C
Metro Davao	26 °C 33 °C	Moderate: North to Northwest Coastal Waters: Moderate	25 °C 34 °C	25 °C 33 °C	25 °C 33 °C	24 °C 32 °C
Zamboanga City	23 °C 33 °C	Light to Moderate: North Coastal Waters: Slight to Moderate	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 33 °C	23 °C 32 °C	23 °C 32 °C

**LEGEND:**

	Clear Skies		Partly Cloudy to at times Cloudy with Rainshower and/ or Thunderstorms		Occasional Rains		Rains with Gusty Winds
	Partly Cloudy Skies		Cloudy Skies with Rainshower and/ or Thunderstorms		Monsoon Rains / Rains		Stormy
	Partly Cloudy to at times Cloudy with Rainshower		Light Rains				

END OF FORECAST

PREPARED BY: LADO

"Tracking the sky... Helping the country"

WFPC BIR Road Diliman Quezon City

CHECKED BY: MIM

Tel/Fax: +6329271541

07 February 2017

PHILIPPINE DAILY  
**INQUIRER**

Page: A1

# CRACKDOWN BEGINS: RED LEADER ARRESTED

STORY BY KARLOS MANLUPIG, CYNTHIA D. BALANA AND MARLON RAMOS

- Soldiers arrest rebel consultant on Monday after President Duterte scraps peace talks
- Communist rebels insist negotiations can go on even without a ceasefire
- NPA guerrilla killed in clash with soldiers in Occidental Mindoro

AE

## Crackdown starts: Red leader arrested

**FROM A1**

By **Karlos Manlupig,**  
**Cynthia D. Balana**  
and **Marlon Ramos**  
@Team\_Inquirer

Soldiers arrested a peace consultant to the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) in Davao City on Monday even as communist rebels sought the resumption of talks.

The arrest came two days after President Duterte terminated peace talks with the NDFP, political arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

NDFP consultant Ariel Arbitrario and his driver, Roderick Mamuyac, were arrested by members of Task Force Davao at a checkpoint in Sirawan, Toril District, Davao City. They were turned over to the Philippine National Police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

Arbitrario was arrested in Tagum City in Davao del Norte province in February last year, but the city's Regional Trial Court Branch 3 approved his release on bail, along with another NDFP consultant, Eduardo Genelsa, on Aug. 17 last year.

The President on Friday lifted the government's six-month-old ceasefire with the rebels and on Saturday, he scrapped the talks.

He demanded that rebel leaders, who were temporarily freed to join the negotiations as consultants, go back to jail, threatening to have them arrested if they refused.

The President's moves came after the guerrillas abandoned their own truce and killed six soldiers and kidnapped two others in fresh violence.

The government and the rebels separately declared a ceasefire last year to encourage peace talks, which had steadily progressed in recent months before rapidly deteriorating in recent weeks.

The NDFP accused the military of violating the government's own ceasefire by deploying troops to about 500 villages across the country and continuing counterinsurgency operations like surveillance that it said inevitably led to new fighting.

Before Arbitrario's arrest, the CPP had expressed concern over Mr. Duterte's threat against NDFP peace consultants.

Luis Jalandoni, an adviser to

the NDFP negotiating panel, said the 17 freed rebels were protected by a 1995 accord under which the government agreed to grant them immunity from arrest while serving as peace talks consultants.

All the rebels have returned to the Philippines after joining a recent round of talks in Rome and should not be arrested, he said.

### 'Spoiled brats'

Told that Jalandoni was insisting that NDFP consultants were protected by the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (Jasig), the President said: "I am not his client. I don't take any orders from anybody."

"I tried my best to make peace with everybody. These communists, they are spoiled brats. It's as if they are in the government when they make demands," he added.

Mr. Duterte, who called the GPP a "terrorist" organization, then conceded that he could not fulfill his campaign promise to end the communist rebellion during his six-year term.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines said it had yet to receive a copy of the President's official order for the arrest of

said the arrest of Arbitrario and Mamuyac on Monday had nothing to do with the President's order.

Mamuyac has a standing warrant of arrest on murder charges issued by Judge Virginia Tehano of a Davao court according to Arevalo.

Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate said the government should not just arrest NDFP consultants, as there were processes on bail and Jasig that had to be followed first.

But Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II said the bail granted to the NDFP consultants was not "indefinite" because it was good for only six months to one year.

"Unless they get a renewal for their bail, they will be considered wanted persons," Aguirre said.

#### Formalize suspension

The justice secretary said the arrests would be made only after Mr. Duterte had formalized the suspension of peace talks. "Once it has been established that there is no more peace talks and they are back here, they will be arrested," he said.

Aguirre said the government would ask the court if the NDFP consultants had violated the terms of their bail, which would mean they could be arrested

without making any motion to lift their bail.

Mr. Duterte's sudden termination of the talks will take effect only one month after serving a written notice to terminate the process, as previously agreed upon by both sides, according to Jalandoni.

This meant that NDFP holders of safe conduct under Jasig could not be arrested and detained anew during this period, he said.

#### Spur of the moment

The CPP said Mr. Duterte's statement scrapping the talks might be a spur of the moment decision without considering the many gains achieved after the resumption of the negotiations.

"His decision was made clearly without judicious consideration of the advice of his peace panel, and coming at the heels of a successful third round of peace talks in Rome, Italy, just over a week ago," the CPP said.

Even with the gloomy situation, the CPP said it was hopeful that both negotiating panels would meet again this month.

Both parties agreed during the third round of talks in Rome last month that they would meet again in The Netherlands on Feb. 22-24 to discuss the crafting of a bilateral ceasefire

agreement and on April 2-6 for the fourth round of talks.

Expected in the fourth round of talks are agreements on major points that will clear the way to the signing of the Comprehensive Agreement on Social and Economic Reforms.

"We're saying the peace talks are still possible in the absence of a ceasefire," Jalandoni told radio dzMM by telephone from Europe.

#### Humps, curves, detours

Despite his tough stance, the President on Saturday said that he may reconsider his decision if there was a compelling reason.

His adviser on the peace talks, Jesus Dureza, suggested on Sunday that the President's decision may still change.

"As I always say, the road to just and lasting peace is not easy to traverse. There are humps and bumps, and curves and detours along the way," Dureza said in a statement.

On Monday, Mr. Duterte said the government peace panel would not return to the negotiating table anytime soon as he had "entirely scrapped" the peace talks.

"I don't want being played around," he told reporters. —REPORTS FROM GIL C. CABACUNGAN, VINCE F. NONATO, JULIE M. AURELIO AND AP INQ





07 February 2017

THE PHILIPPINE  
**STAR**

Page: 1

# Fight with NPA resumes

## *2 rebels arrested*

By MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN

Government troops resumed yesterday offensive operations against the communist New People's Army (NPA) in compliance with President Duterte's order lifting the unilateral ceasefire.

This resulted in the arrest of two rebels in Davao City, while two soldiers and five rebels were also reportedly wounded in separate encounters since Sunday.

A consultant of the National Democratic Front (NDF) and a liaison officer of the NPA in Southern Mindanao were arrested yesterday morning by elements of the Army-led Task Force Davao at a checkpoint in Barangay Sirawan, Toril, Davao City.

Task Force Davao com-

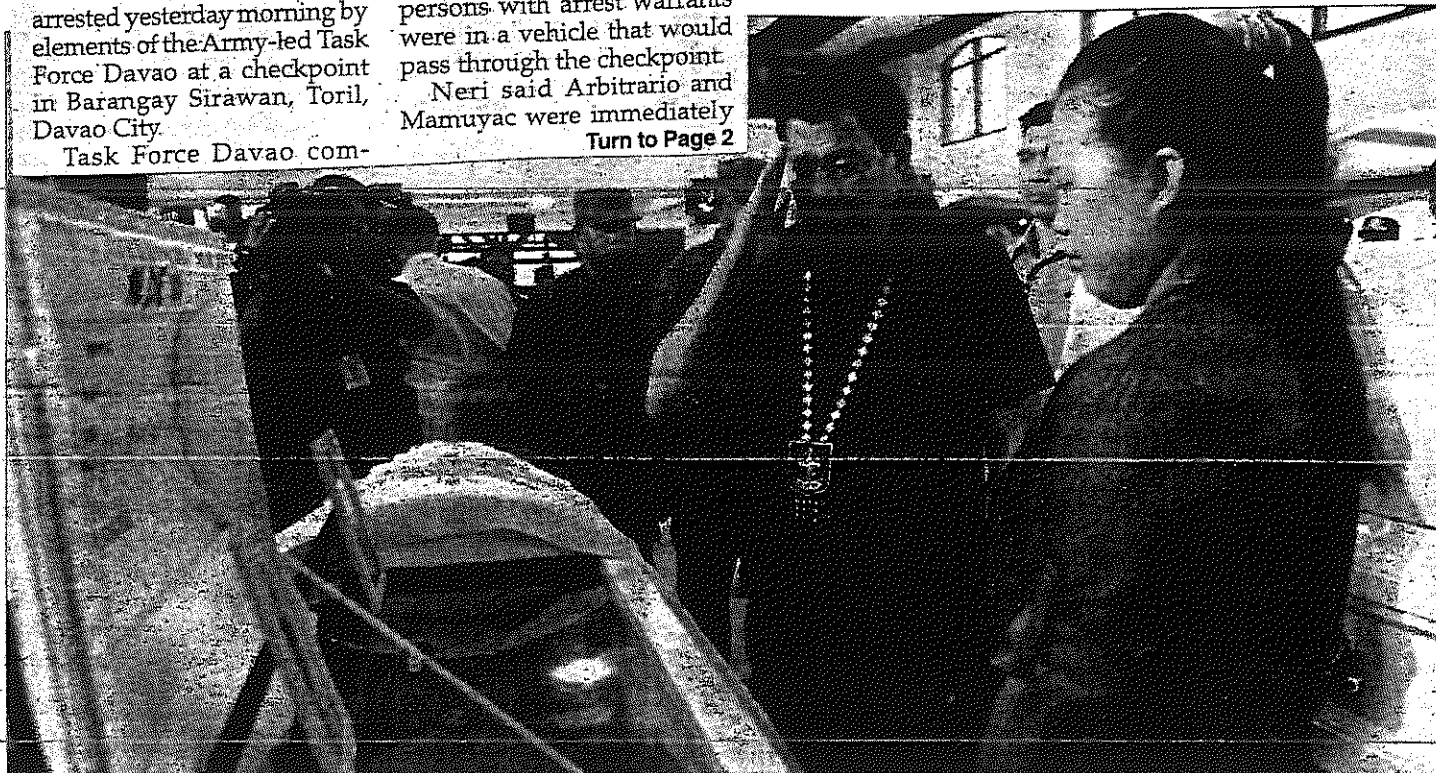
mander Col. Erwin Neri identified the NDF consultant as Arjel Arbitrario and the NPA liaison officer as Roderick Mamuyac.

The arrests came two days after Duterte lifted the unilateral ceasefire.

Neri said an informant told the military that several persons with arrest warrants were in a vehicle that would pass through the checkpoint.

Neri said Arbitrario and Mamuyac were immediately

Turn to Page 2



## Fight From page 1

turned over to the police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG).

The two were said to be on their way to Davao del Sur when intercepted.

President Duterte has ordered the Philippine National Police (PNP) to arrest members of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF).

"The President has given the orders to arrest them upon entry to Philippine soil," PNP chief Director General Ronald

dela Rosa said yesterday afternoon.

Holding a paper with the handwritten names of those to be arrested, Dela Rosa read the names of 12 NDF consultants.

They were couple Benito and Wilma Tiamzon, Vic Ladlad, Afelberto Silva, Alfonso Jazmines, Alfredo Mapano, Loida Magpatoc, Pedro Cárdate, Ruben Salota, Ernesto Lorenzo, Porferio Tuna, Renante Gamara and Tirso Alcantara.

The police will look for the NDF consultants who have returned and arrest

them, Dela Rosa said. "We are armed with warrant of arrest, *arestuhin namin* (we will arrest them)."

Dela Rosa, however, said the arrest was not directly because of the failed peace talks.

"No. Because of the cases filed against them, the warrants are still there, these have not been quashed so we can arrest them.

"I have instructed the CIDG to lead in this operation and CIDG will coordinate with the Bureau of Immigration so when they arrive they can be arrested," he added.

Duterte on Saturday night said he was cancelling the peace talks with the Reds unless there was a compelling reason to continue. The President also told government negotiators in Rome to come home.

Duterte also disagreed with NDF chief negotiator Fidel Agcaoili, who claimed that a formal notice is necessary to terminate the peace talks.

"I'm not his (Agcaoili) client. I do not take orders from anybody," the President said.

Meanwhile, the NDF reiterated that Duterte could not just order the arrest of NDF con-



**National Democratic Front consultant Ariel Arbitrario shows an identification card and a safe conduct pass following his arrest in Davao City yesterday.** EPA

sultants who participated in the peace talks.

The NDF said the 17 consultants released in 2016 to join the peace talks are currently in the country and not in hiding.

The communist umbrella group said that under the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG), the consultants could not be arrested again.

The NDF also said the consultants are currently out on bail for six months and they have permission from the court to join the third round of peace talks with the government.

The 17 consultants are set to post bail again this month.

Agcaoil said in an earlier statement that all their consultants are protected from arrest under the JASIG, which the Philippine government peace panel reaffirmed in the latest round of talks last month in Rome, Italy.

Arbitrario, secretary of Guerrilla Front 2 of the NPA's Southern Mindanao Regional Committee, was first arrested by the police on Feb. 16, 2016 in Tagum City.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Public Affairs Office chief, Marine Col. Edgard Arevalo confirmed this yesterday even as the military assured the people that military operations would not be indiscriminate.

them hard like what our chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Año said, that does not mean that it would be indiscriminate," he said.

Two Army troopers were wounded yesterday morning when NPA rebels detonated an improvised explosive device in Barangay Trece Martirez in Casiguran, Sorsogon, the military said.

Col. Fernando Trinidad, Army's 903rd Infantry Brigade commander, said soldiers under

2nd Lt. Ben Dijito were checking a rebel camp when an IED exploded and triggered a firefight.

Trinidad said the two Army men were hit by shrapnel. The wounded soldiers were not immediately identified.

"Our soldiers were moving up while the enemy was in an advantageous higher position," said Trinidad.

The military reported that five NPA guerrillas were wounded after an encounter with members of the Army's 29th Infantry Battalion in Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte on Sunday.

Lt. Col. Glenn Joy Aynera, commanding officer of 29th IB, said government troops are now conducting pursuit operations against the rebel band headed by Kumander Otto.

Another encounter occurred on Sunday noon in Barangay Mat-a, Surigao City but no casualty was reported.

Arevalo also denied again that the military had conducted combat operations against the NPA when the unilateral ceasefire was in effect.

He said such incidents during the ceasefire were mere law enforcement operations in support of the PNP against lawless elements.

Año assured the rebels that the military would respect the human rights of NPA guerrillas.

abuses, he said the charges will be investigated and addressed appropriately.

The AFP also expressed optimism that despite the lifting of the unilateral ceasefire, the peace talks will continue.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana also gave assurance that the peace talks would continue despite recent developments.

Both the Army and PNP are now in defensive mode as they brace for renewed NPA attacks.

Senior Supt. William Señoron, Negros police director, said the police Regional Public Safety Battalion and the Army's 303rd Infantry Brigade are now preparing for possible encounters.

## Termination of peace talks

The Communist Party of the Philippines rejected Duterte's termination of the peace negotiations.

In a statement yesterday, the CPP said it joins the Filipino people in rejecting the declaration the other night of Duterte that he will terminate peace negotiations between the government and the NDF and that he is dissolving his negotiating panel.

Duterte also ordered all negotiators to come home to the Philippines and that he was effectively dissolving the panel that negotiates peace with the NDF.

The CPP claimed that until now it has not received any formal notice of the termination of the peace talks other than the declaration of the President.

"Having not received any formal notice of termination from the government, however, we consider as standing the government-NDFP peace negotiations. We continue to look forward to scheduled talks on Feb. 22-24 and April 2-6," the CPP statement added.

If carried out, these shall be considered as gross acts of treachery and grave violations of the JASIG.

- With Cecille Suerte Felipe, Alexis Romero, Edith Regalado, Ben Serrano, Celso Amo, Gilbert Bayoran, Edu Punay

07 February 2017

MANILA BULLETIN

Page: 1

# AFP resumes drive on NPA

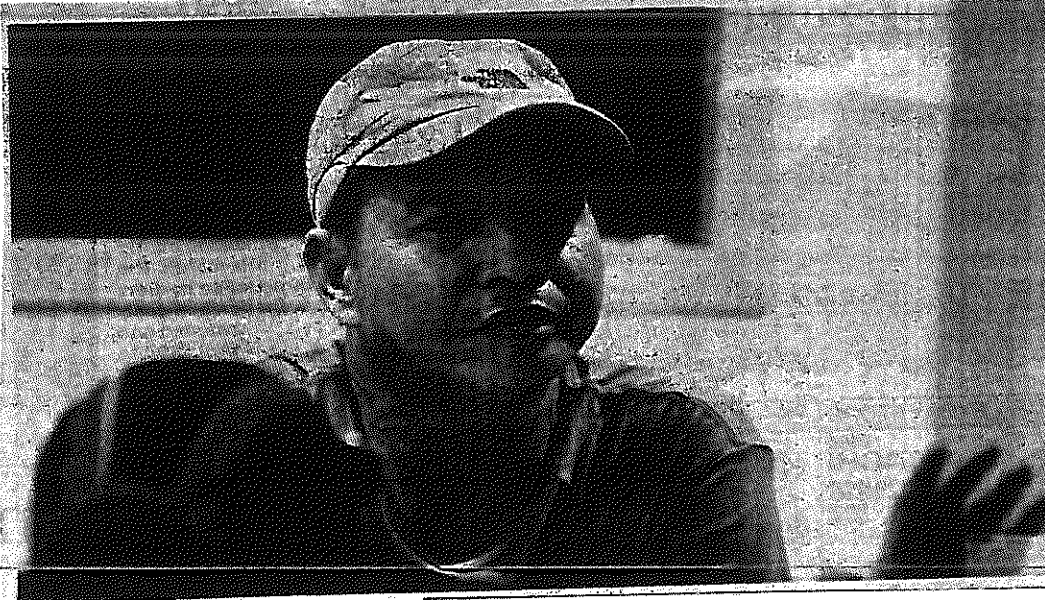
FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

**T**he Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) yesterday said that combat military operations against Communist guerrillas have resumed following President Rodrigo Duterte's pronouncement ending the government's own unilateral ceasefire declared last year.

AFP Public Affairs Office (PAO) chief Marine Col. Edgard Arevalo said the resumption of combat operations was in line with the Chief Executive's order to go after Communist rebels, especially those who commit atrocities against the people.

Arevalo, at the same time, said that efforts are being

►4



**DETAINED CONSULTANT**  
- National Democratic Front consultant Ariel Arbitrario is detained at the CIDG headquarters in Davao City following his arrest at a checkpoint Monday. President Duterte has called off peace talks with communist rebels. (Keith Bacongco)

## AFP resumes drive...

◀1

made to locate the whereabouts of three soldiers earlier kidnapped by armed men believed to be New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas.

The Chief Executive, during his visit to Camp Evangelista chapel for the wake of slain soldiers of the 4th Infantry Division in Patag, Cagayan de Oro, assailed the atrocities committed against soldiers despite the existence of a unilateral ceasefire.

"Right now with the unilateral ceasefire and the suspension of military operation (SOMO) already lifted, we are conducting combat operations as response to complaints coming from the people of atrocities being committed by NPA rebels," Arevalo said.

"There are reports of extortion activities, there are reports of IED (improvised explosive device) being planted. Some also complained that they are being threatened and harassed by NPA rebels," he added.

With regards to the status of the three soldiers earlier kidnapped by suspected NPA rebels, Arevalo said that they are still trying to determine their whereabouts. Two of the soldiers were reportedly abducted in Columbio, Sultan Kudarat, last February 2.

The Columbio Municipal Police in Sultan Kudarat identified the kidnap victims as Sgt. Solaiman Calocop and PFC Samuel Garay, both of the Army's 39th Infantry Battalion, based in Makilala town, Cotabato Province.

The two soldiers were on board a motorcycle on their way to their battalion headquarters when stopped by more than 10 armed men at Purok 7, Brgy. Telafas.

Columbio, Sultan Kudarat, at around 7:30 am, Thursday.

A trooper of the Army's 30th Infantry Battalion, deployed as a member of the Peace and Development Team (PDT) in Barangay Budlingin, Alegria, Surigao del Norte, was also abducted by about 15

armed men last week. He was identified as Private First Class Erwin R. Salan.

Salan was kidnapped by men believed to be members of the NPA's Sandatahan Yunit Pampropaganda (SYP) - Lumad, Front Committee 16, North Eastern Mindanao Regional Committee (NEMRC), under the leadership of Florencio Llano alias "Ricky." Salan was with some youth volunteers engaged in forest cleanup near Lumondo Falls, when he was abducted.

### NDFP consultant apprehended

DAVAO CITY - A consultant for constitutional and political reforms of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) was arrested and placed under the custody of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG).

The NDFP consultant, Ariel Arbitrario, was intercepted at a checkpoint in this city, Monday morning.

With Arbitrario were Roderick Mamuyac and Rosario Sinday.

Task Force Davao commander Col. Erwin Bernard Neri said that the authorities had been alerted on the presence of "wanted personalities" on board the pickup truck with plate number ADP 5617.

Arbitrario was arrested in February last year in Tagum City. Arbitrario, the subject of a warrant of arrest for murder, is currently out on bail. He was a participant in the peace talks between the government of the Philippines and the NDFP.

Anakpawis representative Ariel Casilao told reporters that Arbitrario's bail conditions "still held water" since it will lapse in March. Casilao said that it was not clear if Arbitrario is under arrest, and there are no officials from any of the authorities who gave an explanation on the situation.

In a statement, NDFP panelist Fidel Agcaoli said that all consultants in the Philippines are all accounted for and are

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not in hiding.

Task Force Davao commander Col. Erwin Bernard Nerisaid that Aribtrario, Mamuyac, and Rosario Sindyay were apprehended Monday morning at the checkpoint which had been alerted about their Chevrolet pickup truck with plate number ADP 5617.

The consultant was a participant in the talks between the GRP and NDFP peace panels.

#### 'The devil'

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY - Almalou Obedencio Yee, wife of slain army Corporal Owen Yee described the killers of her husband as the "devil," after seeing the body of her husband after it was retrieved in Malaybalay City, Bukidnon, last Wednesday.

"Grabe ka brutal. Dili gud ingon nga tao lang ang nagbuhat ani kun dili dako nga demonyo (Very brutal. They're not human, but the devil)," Almalou said.

The remains of Yee and two other soldiers who were killed were taken to the Camp Evangelista Chapel of the 4th Infantry Division, Barangay Patag, here.

"Gusto nako ipanawagan sa iyaha (President Duterte) ang hustisya sa (kamatayon) sa akong bana ug iyang kauban... na grabeng brutal," Almalou said while waiting for the President to arrive here, Sunday.

"Gusto nako na matagaan sila ug hustisya. Kana ang gusto nako ipanawagan kay Pres Duterte. Daghan kaau sila samad, bala lang (gani) pero daghan kaau (I want justice for them. That is what I will call upon Pres Duterte. They sustained too many bullet wounds. They are just too much)," Almalou said.

Yee is survived by his wife and seven-year-old daughter.

Two other families of the three fallen soldiers who were killed by members of the New People's Army last Wednesday, February 1, 2017, also cried for justice for the "brutal killing" of their kin.

Mrs. Janice Dolorito Non and her three kids kept crying beside the coffin of Corporal Pat Non. Janice also described the death of her husband as "sobrang

brutal, parang hindi na tao yung pumatay sa kanila."

Janice and his slain husband were married for nine years and have two kids. Non had been serving the Army for 16 years.

Poteniano Canillas Jr., the father-in-law of Cpl. Nino Christopher Talabor, said he wanted to ask President Duterte to give justice for their deaths.

Canillas who is a member of the Civil Auxillary Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU), "Sa among pag seminar, usa, duha ka bala lang okay na. pero sila murag brutal nga pagpatay bah (In our training, one or two bullets is enough. what happened to them is like brutal killing)," Canillas said. "Wala na ko niyong na ing-ana. Dili na ni normal (I cannot agree. This is not normal)," he added.

Talabor suffered more than 20 bullet wounds. He had been married one year to the six-month-pregnant daughter of Canillas.

Col. Eric Vinoya, 403rd Infantry Brigade commander, described the act as inhuman and overkill. He said: "We condemn the recent act of violence perpetrated by alleged NPA members against 3 personnel of the 8IB who were conducting Community Support Program in Brgy Manalog, Malaybalay City. They left the barangay because they needed to secure some documentary requirements for a livelihood project that they were facilitating in the community and to get their subsistence allowances. Unfortunately, they were flagged down and murdered by armed men as they were about to go back to the community. They were in civilian attire and unarmed when they were slain."

Major Gen. Benjamin R. Madrigal Jr. 41D commander, assailed the act of the NPA. "Is this what they call achievement of 'just peace'? How can these NPA say that they also want peace if they still continue to kill with impunity, continue to burn construction and production equipment, and kill innocent people?," he asked. Pursuing troops

CAMP BANCASI, Butuan City – Search and rescue operation for an abducted Army soldier in Surigao del Norte widened yesterday after pursuing government troops encountered some of the communist insurgents believed to be part of the hostage-takers on Sunday.

The command section of the Army's 401st Infantry Brigade based in New Leyte, Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur, deployed more troops to beef up pursuing units of the 30th Infantry Battalion (30th IB) in Surigao del Norte and Surigao City.

The 402nd Infantry Brigade based in Tandag City also deployed combat troops at the border of Surigao del Sur and Surigao del Norte to block any rebels fleeing pursuing troops on Sunday in Barangay Mat-i, Surigao City.

A 15-minute gunbattle erupted between government security forces and New people's Army (NPA) rebels on Sunday when troopers spotted the rebels in Barangay Mat-i, Surigao City.

Troops of the 30th IB under the command of Lt. Col. Rico Amaro are still pursuing the group of a certain "Commander Lucas" of the CPP-NPA Northeastern Mindanao Regional Committee (NS-MRC), the military field report said.

Capt. Joe Patrick A. Martinez, regional spokesman of the Army's northeastern and northern Mindanao 4th Infantry (Diamond) Division (4th ID), said an undetermined number of NPAs were believed wounded on Sunday's gunbattle.

"However, the rebels hastily ran away, sensing that they were outgunned and outnumbered after the initial fierce gunfight," Martinez said.

Elements of 30th IB are currently pursuing the hostage-takers of Private First Class Erwin Salan in Barangay Budlingin. The abducted soldier who belonged to the 30th IB was abducted last Sunday, Jan. 29, by the Guerrilla-Front Committee 16 of the CPP-NPA NEMRC, military report said. (With reports from Camcer Ordoñez Imam, Yas D. Ocampo, and Mike U. Crismundo)

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## NPA rebels na pumatay ng sundalo, ipinasusuko

Hiniling ni Sen. Paolo Benigno Aquino IV kahapon na isuko ng National Democratic Front (NDF) ang mga rebelde na pumatay sa mga sundalo ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) sa Mindanao nitong nakaraang linggo kung nais nilang matuloy ang nabalam na usapang pangkapayapaan.

"While peace is the ultimate goal, parties must come to the table in good faith," din ni Aquino.

Idineklara ni President Duterte noong Linggo ang Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), New People's Army (NPA) at NDF bilang mga terorista at iniutos na muling arestuhin ang mga rebeldeng pinalaya para dumalo sa peace talks sa Norway.

Sinabi ni Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Ano, na ang mga pananambang ng mga NPA noong nakaraang linggo ay nakakawalang-tiwala at nakababahala. Habang tinitiyak aniya ni NDF chief communist negotiator Fidel Agcaoli sa publiko na magpapatuloy ang unilateral ceasefire, maatake naman ng CPP-NPA ang mga sundalo na nagsasagawa ng community support.

Aniya, ang mga pag-atake ay nagresulta sa pagkamatay ni 2nd Lt. Miguel Victor Alejo at lima pang sundalo, at pagdukot sa tatlong iba pa sa hilagang Mindanao.

Sinabi ni AFP-Public Affairs Office chief Marine Col. Edgard Arevale na susumod ang militar sa mga pahayag ng Pangulo at kung ano ang nararapat.

"We understand his expression of exasperation over the NPA's lack of sincerity in doing its part in the erstwhile peace negotiations," aniya.

Ngurut para kay Sen. Francis Pangilinan, dapat bigyan ng pagkakataon ang kapayapaan.

"The road to peace is not easy and is fraught with obstacles but it is still a road we must traverse if we are to succeed in finally joining the ranks of modern and progressive nations in the world," aniya.

### MAY KASO PA

Sinabi ni Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana na dapat nang umuwi sa bansa ang peace negotiators ng CPP-NPA-NDF na kasalukuyang nasa Oslo, Norway at iniutos ang pag-aresto sa mga ito, dahil hindi na applicable ang mga protocol ng Geneva Convention.

Ipormaliwanag ni Lorenzana na ang mga miyembro ng CPP-NPA-NDF peace panel ay nahaharap pa rin sa mga kasong kriminal dahil sila ay hindi binigyan ng pardon o amnesty.

"So they should come back and face the charges against them," ari Lorenzana.

### EMOSYONAL LANG

Binalawala naman ni NDF senior adviser Luis Jalandoni ang deklarasyon ng Pangulo na mga terorista ang CPP-NPA.

Aniya, "emotional reaction" lamang ng Pangulo ang naging pahayag nito sa harap ng mga pamilya ng namatay na sundalo sa Bukidnon.

Sapanayam ng DZMM kahapon,

sinabi ni Jalandoni na naniniwala pa rin siya sa sinabi noon ni Duterte na gusto nito ng peace talks at maresolba ang iba't ibang usapin, kagaya na ng land reform, national industrialization at kahirapan.

Tinitiyak ni Jalandoni ang kanilang pangako sa peace negotiations at hindi sususpindihin ng NDF ang negosasyon sa gobyerno hanggang wala silang natatanggap na written notice tungkol dito.

### IBANG SOLUSYON

Hinimok ng isang obispo sa Mindanao ang gobyerno na pagtuunan ng pansin ang kahirapan matapos mabigo ang peace negotiations.

Naniniwala si Marbel Bishop Dinaldo Gutierrez na ang kahirapan ang isa sa mga rason kung bakit nahihikayat ang ilang tao na sumali sa mga rebeldeng grupo.

"What the government should do is solve the problem of poverty. If the situation of the poor improved, groups like the New People's Army will have difficulty recruiting members," aniya sa isang pahayag.

Dapat ding tugunan ng pamahalaan ang mga abusadong awtoridad at ireporma ang justice system.

"For me, there are other solutions to this (peace problem). Let's solve the economic, political, judicial and even the citizenry also. The citizens must be educated to be more civic-minded," ani Gutierrez.

**Mario B Casayuran,  
Fer Taboy,  
Francis T. Wakefield  
at Leslie Ann G. Aquino**

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# Military resumes campaign vs Reds

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Armed Forces of the Philippines said yesterday that combat military operations against communist rebels have resumed after President Duterte ended the five-month government ceasefire over the weekend.

AFP Public Affairs Office chief Marine Col. Edgard Arevalo disclosed during an interview that the resumption of combat operations was in line with the Chief Executive's pronouncement to go after communist rebels, especially those who commit atrocities to the people.

"Right now with the unilateral ceasefire and the suspension of military operation already lifted, we are

currently conducting combat operations as response to complaints coming from the people of the atrocities being committed by NPA rebels," Arevalo said. "There are reports of extortion activities, there are reports of IED being planted. Some also complained that they are being threatened and harass by NPA rebels," he added.

Arevalo also said that efforts are being made to locate the whereabouts of three soldiers – Sgt. Solaiman Calocop and Private First Class Samuel Garay, both of the 39th Infantry Battalion based in Makilala, Cotabato, and Private First Class Erwin R. Salan of the 30th IB – kidnapped by suspected New People's Army rebels in Min-danao recently.

"We have not received any latest

reports on that but what I know up to this time is they are still considered missing and their whereabouts still yet to be determined," Arevalo said.

They were not hostile or aggressive when they were taken by the enemy, according to Arevalo.

Calocop and Garay were abducted in Cumbio, Sultan Kudarat while onboard a motorcycle on their way to their battalion headquarters.

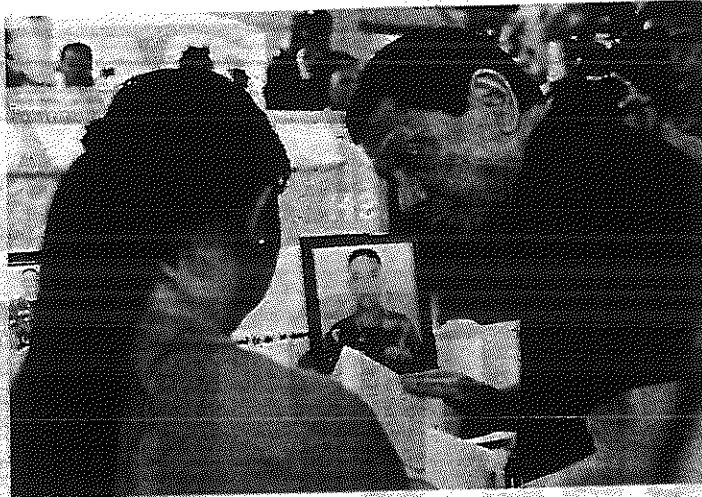
On the other hand, Salan, deployed as a member of the Peace and Development Team, was abducted while conducting a forest clean up drive with active youth volunteers within the vicinity of Lumondo Falls in Barangay Budlingin, Alegria, Surigao del Norte.



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**Tempo**

Page. 2



**PRESIDENT Duterte gives financial assistance to Alma Yee, partner of slain Corporal Owen Yee, during a visit to his wake at the St. Ignatius de Loyola Parish in Cagayan de Oro City. Yee and two other soldiers were allegedly killed by suspected New People's Army rebels in Malaybalay City, Bukidnon last week. (Presidential photo)**

## Rody: Communists are spoiled brats

President Duterte stood firm in his decision to scrap the peace talks and lashed out at communist rebels for being "spoiled brats" and "arrogant" over their unreasonable demands in the negotiating table.

The President insisted that peace was no longer possible with the belligerent rebels as he ordered the military and police to arrest the rebel negotiators earlier freed to join the talks.

"I tried my best to make peace with everybody. Ito naman komunista, hindi ko gustong. They are spoiled brat. Akala mo sila 'yung nasa gobyerno kung mag-make ng demands," Duterte said during the launching of a vegetable garden at the Presidential Security Group compound in Manila yesterday.

"Ang yayabang pa magsalita. Ako nagho-hold lang ako. I have to swallow minsan my being humble, okay lang. Pero sumobra itong Pagka-ganoon, fight tayo," he said.

The President earlier decided to terminate the government's peace negotiations with the communists following the collapse of the cease-fire made by the two sides.

Duterte was fuming over the rebel attacks against troops even prior to the lifting of their own truce. He has ordered the troops to prepare offensives against the rebels following the apparent breakdown in the peace talks.

"Wala na, sige giyera tayo. Then peace is not possible during our generation. I'm sorry. I'm not about to talk to them again," the President said.

Duterte said he has already allowed the release of the rebel negotiators for the peace talks but the group demanded much more. He explained that he rejected the rebel demand to release 400 political prisoners because it was already tantamount to a government surrender. **(Genalyn D. Kabiling)**

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# INQUIRER

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NPA-AFP CLASH

## REBEL KILLED IN MINDORO

A suspected communist rebel was killed in a clash with government forces at Santa Cruz town in Occidental Mindoro province on Sunday, a military official in Southern Luzon said.

Maj. Gil Perez of the military's Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) said soldiers from the Army's 76th Infantry Battalion clashed with more than 20 New People's Army (NPA) rebels in Barangay Pinagturilan, Santa Cruz, around 2 p.m.

He said a still unidentified NPA member was killed in the 30-minute firefight. Soldiers recovered 45-cal pistol bullets, two improvised explosive devices, antigovernment documents and personal belongings from the clash site.

The body of the slain rebel was turned over to the Santa Cruz police station for identification.

Perez said residents in the village had informed the military about the presence of NPA rebels in their community.

Units of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in Southern Tagalog and Bicol regions have resumed offensives against communist rebels following the government's termination of its unilateral ceasefire with the NPA, said Lt. Gen. Ferdinand Quidilla, Solcom commander.

"We assure you that our troops will conduct our tactical operations within the bounds of the AFP rules of engagement and respect for human rights and rule of law at all times," Quidilla said in a statement.

In Eastern Visayas, soldiers are in full alert for possible attacks from communist rebels, said Lt. Cherry Junia, spokesperson for the 8th Infantry Division based in Catbalogan City in Samar province.

"But so far, Eastern Visayas remains peaceful," Junia said.

The AFP may end up weakened if it ends up not only battling drug pushers and users but also resuming a shooting war with communist rebels, according to Sen. Leila de Lima. —REPORTS FROM DELFIN T. MALLARI JR., JOEY A. GABIETA AND CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO-INO

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**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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## NPA rebel killed in Mindoro clash

BY JERRY J. ALCAYDE

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — A New People's Army (NPA) fighter was killed in a clash with Philippine Army soldiers in Barangay Pinagturilan, Sta. Cruz, Occidental Mindoro Sunday afternoon.

Col. Antonio G. Parlade, commander of 203rd Brigade (Bantay Kapayapaan) of the Armed Forces of the Philippines

stationed in Mindoro island said a platoon of Philippine Army soldiers swooped down on the NPA's lair in the said barangay at about 2 p.m. last February 5.

Parlade said no casualties were reported from the government side.

The Armymen, led by Second Lieutenant Kirby Buhion of the 76 Infantry Battalion, recovered from the encounter site a .45 caliber pistol, ammunition,

two improvised explosive devices, four backpacks, a binocular, personal belongings and documents.

Parlade said that the group may be the responsible for the recent attack in a security detachment in Nasugbu, Batangas recently.

He added that an NPA rebel returnee, a Mangyan tribe member, tipped them of the presence of the rebels in the encounter site.

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## Fresh clash kills 1 NPA

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro – A New People's Army rebel was killed during a clash between Philippine Army soldiers and about 20 NPA fighters Sunday afternoon in Barangay Pinagturilan, Sta. Cruz here.

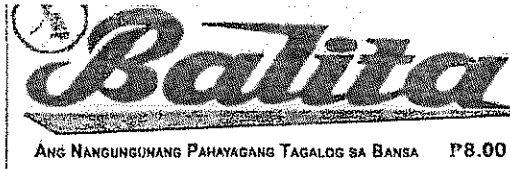
Colonel Antonio G. Parlade, commander of 203rd Brigade (Bantay Kapayapaan) of the Armed Forces of the Philippines stationed in Mindoro island said a platoon of Army men swooped down on the NPA's lair in the said barangay at about 2 p.m. last February 5 which led to a firefight.

Col. Parlade said the government side did not suffer any casualty while the slain NPA rebel is yet to be identified.

The Army soldiers, led by Second Lieutenant Kirby Buhion of the 76 Infantry Battalion recovered several weapons and ammunitions as well as four backpacks, a binocular, personal belongings and subversive documents.

Parlade believes the group was part of the NPA rebels that attacked a security detachment in Nasugbu, Batangas recently. **(Jerry Alcayde)**

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## Rebelde todas sa sagupaan

**NI DANNY J. ESTACIO**

**CAMP G. NAKAR, Lucena City**  
- Isang miyembro ng front guerrilla ng New People's Army (NPA) ang napatay sa pakikipagsagupaan ng militar sa nasa 20 rebelde sa Sitio Kalibunlibunan, Barangay

Pinagturilan sa Sta. Cruz, Occidental Mindoro, nitong Linggo ng hapon.

Batay sa ulat ng Southern Luzon Command (SolCom), nakipagbambakan ang 203rd Infantry Brigade ni Col. Antonio Parlade at ang 76th Infantry Battalion sa nasa 20 miyembro ng NPA, at tumagal ito ng 30 minuto hanggang sa umurong ang mga rebelde.

Hindi pa natukoy ang pagkakakilanlan ng nasawi, na nakumpiskahan din ng isang .45

caliber pistol at mga magazine at mga bala ng M16 armalite rifle, isang binocular, dalawang improvised explosive device (IED), mga dokumento at personal na mga gamit.

Sinabi ni Major Gil Perez, tagapagsalita ng SolCom, na ipmag-utos ni SolCom chief Lt. Gen. Ferdinand Quidilla ang opensibang lahat ng military unit sa Region 4-A laban sa NPA kasunod ng pagbawi ng magkabilang panig sa kani-kanilang unilateral ceasefire.

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# NGAYON

Pahina. 6

## 1 NPA patay sa bakbakan

**CAMP NAKAR, Lucena City** – Isa sa 20 rebeldeng New People's Army (NPA) ang napatay makaraang makasagupa ang tropa ng militar sa Sitio Kalibunlibunan, Barangay Pinagtuntan sa bayan ng Sta. Cruz, Occidental Mindoro kamakalawang hapon. Sa ulat na nakarating kay Southern Luzon Command Commander Lt

Gen. Ferdinand Quidilla, inaalam pa ang pagkakakilanlan ng NPA rebs na napatay. Sumiklab ang bakbakan matapos na tuluyang tapusin ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang peace talks sa hanay ng CPP-NPA-NDF bunga na rin ng karahasan at serye ng pag-atake ng mga rebeldeng New People's Army (NPA) laban sa

tropa ng pamahalaan kung saan anim na sundalo ang napatay sa Malaybalay City, Bukidnon noong nakalipas na linggo.

Nabatid na nakatanggap ng ulat ang tropa ng militar kaugnay sa presensya ng mga rebelde na nangharass ng mga sibilyan.

Agad namang rumesponde ang mga sundalo at nakasagupa ang mga rebelde kung saan tumagal ng 30 minuto at napatay ang isang rebelde.

Pinaniniwalaang mga rebelde na sangkot sa pag-atake sa security detachment sa bayan ng Nasugbu, Batangas ang nakasagupa ng militar noong nakalipas na linggo.

Wala namang nasugatan sa panig ng militar sa naganap na bakbakan.

Narekober sa encounter site ang isang cal. 45 pistol, isang M16 rifle, binocular, apat na backpacks mga kagamitan at mga subersibong dokumento. **Tony Sandoval at Joy Cantos**

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Pahina. 3

## 20 NPA nakasagupa ng militar sa Occidental Mindoro at Sorsogon

Ilang araw matapos bawiin ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang tigil-putukan ng pamahalaan, nakasagupa ng militar ang may 20 rebeldeng New People's Army (NPA) kung saan isa ang ang napatay sa pakikipagbakbakan sa mga sundalo sa Sta. Cruz, Occidental Mindoro kamakalawa ng hapon.

Sa report ni Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Col. Edgard Arevalo, bandang alas-dos ng hapon nang maganap ang engkurwento sa Sitio Kalibunlunan, Brgy. Pinagturilan, Sta. Cruz, Occidental Mindoro.

Samantala, nabulabog ang mga residente sa isang Sitio sa Brgy. Trace Martinez sa bayan ng Casiguran, Sorsogon matapos na magkasagupa ang militar at NPA kahapon ng umaga.

Base sa inisyal na ulat, dalawa sa mga sundalo ang sugatan subalit hindi pa maisiwalat ng pamunuan ng Philippine Army (PA) Bicol ang kanilang pangalan. (Betchai Julian/Edwin Balasa)

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# NDF man falls at checkpoint

By YAS D. OCAMPO

DAVAO CITY – A consultant of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) has been placed in the custody of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group

(CIDG) after being intercepted at one of the checkpoints here.

In the custody of the CIDG is NDFP consultant Ariel Arbitrario who was nabbed February last year in Tagum City.

Along with Arbitrario were two

others, Roderick Mamuyac and Rosario Sinday.

Task Force Davao commander Col. Erwin Bernard Neri, in an interview with reporters, said the three were apprehended Monday morning at the checkpoint after being alerted of the plate number of their Chevrolet pickup truck with plate number ADP 5617.

Neri said that the unit received intelligence from a supposed concerned citizen that there were "wanted personalities" on board the vehicle.

Arbitrario, who is facing murder charges but is on bail, is said to be a participant in the ongoing talks between the GRP and NDFP peace panels.

Anakpawis representative Ariel

Casilao was quick to decry the detention of Arbitrario who said that the NDF man's bail conditions "still held water," since it is yet to lapse in March.

President Duterte over the weekend said the talks were off between the government and the communist rebels, after reports of overkills of soldiers following the withdrawal of ceasefire by the New People's Army (NPA).

President Duterte earlier said he is now considering the CPP-NPA-NDF as a terrorist group, tagging them as a group of bandits.

He also ordered the arrest of CPP-NPA-NDF members returning from Oslo, Norway, as the Geneva Convention protocols no longer apply to them.



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# BusinessMirror

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## Army camps set to adopt vegetable gardening

BY MANUEL T. CAYON  
*Mindanao Bureau Chief*

**D**AVAO CITY—From the Gulayan sa Paaralan program of the Department of Education, the vegetable-gardening concept is being brought to the Army camps in the Davao region.

Last month Acting Regional Director Ricardo M. Onate Jr. and high-ranking military officials in the region agreed to transform idle lands within military camps into vegetable gardens.

Onate said the Gulayan sa Kampo was patterned after the Gulayan sa Paaralan to cultivate vegetable gardens in available plots “to provide food to our soldiers and at the same time as source of food for supplementary feeding in the community”.

“We will teach our military men the technologies on vegetable production and also showcase their farm to encourage neighboring communities to go into vegetable farming,” Onate said.

The program was launched last Friday with representatives from various infantry battalions in the region sitting for the orientation and doing hands-on training on vegetable production.

Soldiers were taught bagging of soil, from vermicast and garden soil to burned rice hull, as part of the training. Participants were also brought on a field tour at the vegetable production area at the City Agriculture Office in Tagum City, Davao del Norte.

They were also given bag of seeds by Department of Agriculture (DA)-Region 11 as their starter kits for the establishment of the Gulayan sa Kampo.

The DA said it would conduct a search for Best Camp Garden in the region following its implementation.

Merriel Aglibot, DA-High Value Commercial Development Program (HVCDP) vegetable focal person, said an annual competition “would serve as a good vehicle to share the best practices in establishing and maintaining camp gardens”.

The program would also want “to showcase small-scale food production model in camps for the households and communities to replicate, purposely to promote family food security”.

The winning camp would be given agricultural inputs, such as vegetable seeds, knapsack sprayers and drums, from DA-HVCDP.

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THE DAILY  
**tribune**  
Without Fear or Favor

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WAR VS  
COMMIES  
ON AS  
AFP-REDS  
CLASHES  
START

# Freed NPA consultant arrested

By Ted Tuvera, Mario J. Mallari  
and Julius Leonen

A National Democratic Front (NDF) consultant who was freed on bail to enable him and other jailed Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the New People's Army (NPA) members to attend the peace talks abroad, has been arrested after he was caught at a military checkpoint in Davao City, following the order of President Rodrigo Duterte to arrest the freed on bail communist upon their return to the country.

But apparently, many of these Red consultants have already returned, but failed to notify the courts of their return.

However, since most of the "temporarily released" communist leaders that junketed to Europe are already in the Philippines, Mr. Duterte yesterday ordered state security forces to hunt all of them down.

In an ambush interview at the Presidential Security Guard (PSG) compound, the Chief Executive said that the military and police should start trailing the "peace consultants" of the CPP-NDF-NPA before they either get out of the country or perhaps go back to the mountains to cock their guns.

Turn to page 2

**From page 1**

"They (consultants on bail) are all here? Then we'll start to look for them and start to arrest them. I'll order the military and police to arrest them," the President told reporters.

"Since they were released on condition that they would participate in the talks and since this (Peace talks) has been entirely scrapped, I will just give them few days to surrender and they will be arrested and placed inside the prisons," he added.

Mr. Duterte also reiterated that he has "decided to entirely scrap" any possibility of talking with the communist movement since he feels betrayed by its leaders after giving them the unprecedented perks they gained in the past six months.

"I don't want to talk to them. They fooled me," he said.

The President, in a speech at the PSG's vegetable garden launch, said that the Communists abused his goodness shown to them to the point that they think they own and control the whole government.

"The communists, they're spoiled brats. They think they are the government when they make their demands," he said.

Asked regarding NDF Chief Negotiator Fidel Agcaoili's demands of giving them an official document that scraps the whole peace negotiations, Mr. Duterte said: "I'm not his client. I do not take orders from anybody."

Agcaoili said that rearresting their CPP-NPA-NDF leaders is "illegal" as far as their previous and recent agreements are concerned.

"All 17 NDF consultants released from detention last August 2016 are in the Philippines and are not in hiding. They are all protected from rearrest in accordance with the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (Jasig)," the rebel leader said.

The joint statement of the government and the NDF after the 3rd round of talks weeks back in Rome noted that: "The government is committed to file immediately the necessary manifestations in support of the motions for the temporary liberty of the NDF consultants and staff granted bail and released in August 2016 be

extended and remain effective for the duration of the peace negotiations."

**Aguirre to NDF consultants:**

**Return to jail**

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II yesterday insisted that all NDF peace consultants, who are all facing criminal charges, should go back to jail after a furious President Duterte ordered their arrests following botched peace talks between the Philippine government and communist rebels.

Mr. Duterte recently declared communist rebels under the CPP-NDF-NPA as terrorists amid reports that communist rebels have slain three soldiers despite the ceasefire.

The NDF leader shot back, saying they are not terrorists, despite the fact that the United States listed the CPP-NDF-NPA as terrorists.

It is on record too that the communist leaders asked Mr. Duterte to seek the dropping of the terrorist label on them in the US list of terrorists as one of their demands, but this was not granted by Mr. Duterte, who said that the communists have taken advantage and that all the time of the peace negotiations, they merely fooled him.

Following the collapse of peace talks between the government and the communists, Aguirre said that the NDF consultants should show signs of good faith and instead go back to jail as what President Duterte has insisted on.

"When they come back here, they should, as a sign of good faith, turn themselves in and go back to their detention cells, just like the good faith that the President had shown them," Aguirre told reporters in an ambush interview.

"Bail is conditional. If peace talks have been terminated, then they should be brought back to their detention cells. That is what has been agreed on," he said.

All NDF consultants, who are facing criminal charges, have been granted bail by the courts last year in order to participate in the peace talks between the government and the communists, a promise President Duterte had made prior to the elections.

Aguirre maintained that whether or not peace talks would

still continue, the consultants should turn themselves in, insisting that they would be declared wanted by authorities since they have not been granted indefinite bail by the courts.

"Whether the peace talks will continue, they have to report back here because they have not been granted indefinite bail. They've been granted six months. Now, if those six months are over, they have to renew it. If not, then they would be considered wanted," Aguirre said.

The Justice Secretary said that while the President has aborted the peace talks with the communist rebels, reopening peace talks between the two groups have not yet been ruled-out, he said, although the President yesterday made it clear that he is scrapping any possibility of engaging in peace talks with the government peace panel again.

Aguirre insisted that President Duterte, for his part in the peace talks, has shown signs of good faith in his efforts and intentions for a successful peace agreement, noting that Duterte had freed the highest officials of the CPP-NPA-NDF.

"The President has already shown (on his part) signs of good faith. He even granted temporary liberty for the CPP-NPA-NDF's highest officials, the Tiamzons. Are there anyone else (from their camp) who hold higher posts than them?" Aguirre said.

Communist rebels have been demanding President Duterte to sign the release of more than 400 political prisoners. The President, however, said that rebels are asking too much from the government.

"Now, with respect to the 400 political prisoners, the President's stand is that he is not the Republic of the Philippines to grant amnesty. In other words, he is not the Congress," Aguirre said. "But in the meantime, they should instead recognize the importance of how the President had shown good faith on his part," Aguirre added.

**NPA consultant arrested**

An NDF consultant and two of his companions were nabbed yesterday morning by the Task Force Davao checkpoint in Barangay Sirawan, Toril district in Davao City.

Ariel Arbitrario, who is assailed to be the the front

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secretary of Guerrilla Front 2 of the NPA's Southern Mindanao Regional Committee (SMRC), was first arrested February 16 last year but was granted temporary liberty when the peace talks began to roll between the government and the NDF months before.

A legal counsel of the NDF said that fugitive rebels arrested or hunted down by the government should not be referred to as criminals.

"Political prisoners may indeed carry criminal indictments, but the impetus for their arrest lies largely on political motives. Most of them are supporters, suspected rightly or wrongly, of rebel causes," NDF lawyer Krissy Conti said.

"Instead of being charged with rebellion and other political crimes, if so alleged as NPA, they're made to face a variety of concocted criminal charges," she added.

#### War erupts as clashes occur

War between the government and the communists is on, even as the CPP-NDF-NPA has been urging President Duterte to go on with the peace talks.

Several encounters erupted between government security forces, particularly the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), and the New People's Army (NPA) in various parts of the country after President Duterte lifted the government ceasefire.

The Red ranking leader of the NPA, freed on conditional bail as "an NDF consultant as was captured by combined police and military troops at around 9 a.m. at a checkpoint in Barangay Sirawan, Toril in Davao City.

Capt. Rhyan Batchar, spokesman of the Army's 10th Infantry Division (ID), said that Arbitrario was arrested, along with Rhoderic Manuyak, who is wanted for murder.

Batchar confirmed that Arbitrario was among the NDF consultants freed for the peace negotiations.

In Occidental Mindoro, elements of the Army's 76th Infantry Battalion (IB), while conducting combat operations, encountered undetermined number of NPA rebels along Sitio Kalibun

Libunan, Barangay Pinagturulan in Sta. Cruz town Sunday.

The clash erupted at around 2 p.m., lasting for about 30 minutes and resulted in the killing of at least one NPA rebel whose body was recovered from the encounter site.

Also seized were two improvised explosive devices, a caliber .45 pistol with magazine, two .45 magazines for M16 A1, a binocular, four backpacks, various subversive documents and personal belongings.

Lt. Xy-Zon Meneses, public affairs officer of the Army's 12th Infantry Division (ID), said ground troops are still conducting pursuit operations.

According to Meneses, the encountered NPA band could be behind the raid at the posh Hamilo Coast Pico de Loro resort in Nasugbu, Batangas last Jan. 31 when the rebels carted away dozens of high-powered firearms and various valuables.

In Agusan del Norte province, elements of the 29th IB encountered more or less five NPA rebels along Barangay Hinimbangan, Kitcharao town, at around noontime also on Sunday.

Military reports said the clash lasted for only three minutes after the communist band, including an amazon, withdrew.

On Saturday, the military reported an encounter with the NPA in Barangay Cabatngan, Lambunao, Iloilo.

In Misamis Occidental also on Saturday, combined police and military operatives nabbed Lito Elmidolan, alias Gary, and his wife Maria Bella, alias Lalay, both provincial officers of the NPA, during an operation at the vicinity of Ozamis Port.

The arrest of the Elmidolan couple was made by virtue of arrest warrants issued against them for murder and multiple attempted murder.

On Friday, the President lifted the government's unilateral ceasefire with the CPP-NPA following the communist group's announcement it is terminating its own unilateral ceasefire effective February 10.

The following day, Duterte ordered the government peace panel to "fold up the tents" - apparently calling off the peace negotiations with the CPP-NPA.

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## 'NDF members can't be arrested right away'

By JOSE RODEL CLAPANO

At least one month is needed after a written notice by the government to terminate peace talks has been made before authorities can arrest members and consultants of the National Democratic Front carrying safe conduct passes, NDF senior political adviser Luis Jalandoni said yesterday.

He said President Duterte's sudden termination of the peace talks and his order to arrest some NDF consultants would take effect only one month after a written notice to terminate the process is submitted based on the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees or JASIG.

"As such, NDF holders of safe conduct passes under the joint agreement on safety and immunity guarantees cannot be arrested and detained during this period," Jalandoni said. The government and the NDF signed the JASIG on Feb. 24, 1995.

The agreement, he said, aims to protect negotiators, consultants, staffers, security and other personnel involved in peace negotiations from sudden arrest.

"The NDF consultants are protected by JASIG. They are participating in peace talks. They are not hiding," Jalandoni pointed out.

The NDF leader said Duterte terminated the talks out of anger over the deaths recently of three soldiers at the hands of New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas.

The killings prompted Duterte to lift the government's unilateral ceasefire. Duterte also called the NPAs "terrorists" not worthy of government's attention.

He said communist negotiators facing charges in court would be recalled from abroad and sent back to jail immediately.

Earlier, Jalandoni said that the peace talks could continue even if there was fighting on the ground.

Jalandoni accused the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) of first violating its own ceasefire by attacking more than 500 villages in 43 provinces and illegally occupying schools and health centers on the presumption that these were communist-infested areas.

He said the government also failed to fulfill its promise of releasing more than 400 political prisoners.

Karapatan and other groups calling themselves peace advocates said Duterte should rethink his position and accept the reality that there would always be roadblocks to peace.

"The President should be prepared to encounter these problems in solving the armed conflict. He should see that one big roadblock is the Armed Forces of the Philippines being warmongers and peace saboteurs, within and outside the peace process," Karapatan secretary-general Cristina Palabay said.

"Political killings, enforced disappearances, illegal arrests and detention, threats and harassment of village residents – all these, and more, were perpetrated without let-up by the AFP during the period of the government's so-called unilateral ceasefire," she pointed out. – With Ramon Lazaro, Artemio Dumlao, Rhodina Villanueva

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# Duterte won't meet till Sison, others 'come to their senses'

By GENALYN D. KABILING

President Duterte is no longer keen on talking with Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founding chair-

man Jose Maria Sison and the other rebel leaders "until they come to their senses."

The President cautioned Sison, an asylum seeker in the Netherlands,

against flying to the Philippines as he will certainly land in jail, he said in a media interview in Davao City last weekend.

Prior to the recent peace ►4

## Duterte won't meet...

◀1

talks, the President had said he was willing to meet Sison in a neutral third country to advance the government's peace initiatives. Sison was a former teacher of Duterte at the Lyceum University.

The President lashed at the rebel group for attacking soldiers despite an ongoing ceasefire, saying they have no honor in the battlefield.

He said the rebels have also "wreaked havoc in the economy" for harassing companies who refuse to pay revolutionary taxes. "So, kung anong gustong gawain ninyo sa gobyerno o sa tao, eh gagawain ko rin sa inyo," he said.

### Pimentel confident

Senate President Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III yesterday expressed confidence the government's peace talks can still continue despite President Duterte's announcement he is terminating the government's peace negotiations with the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New Peoples' Army (CPP-NPA).

Pimentel said other countries that are going through an armed conflict have not ceased conducting peace talks.

"We can continue talking even if there is resumption of military or shooting or war," Pimentel said in an interview.

"Actually, as I've been saying, there are countries that are at war with each other and yet they still have ongoing peace talks. Countries like Syria have an ongoing civil war and yet they, their parties, are holding peace talks," the Senate leader explained.

"So we are better situated. So let's continue it," he added.

"I hope that the suspension of the peace talks would be temporary and would resume in June," he said.

### Surrender killers - Aquino

Sen. Paolo Benigno Aquino IV demanded yesterday that the National Democratic Front (NDF) surrender the communist rebels who "butchered" last week AFP soldiers in Mindanao if it wants the stalled peace negotiations to resume.

"While peace is the ultimate goal, parties must come to the table in good faith," Aquino said. "Only then can we end this conflict and, finally, build a path towards prosperity for our poor countrymen."

Gen. Eduardo Ano, AFP chief of staff, said the ambushes by communist rebels last week were "disdainful and disturbing. While chief communist negotiator Fidel Agcaoli was assuring the public that the NDF, CCP, and NPA would continue the unilateral ceasefire, the CPP-NPA were attacking our soldiers who were doing community support and development."

He said the attacks resulted in the deaths of 2nd Lt. Miguel Victor Alejo and five other soldiers, as well as the abduction of three other soldiers, in northern Mindanao.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan, president of the Liberal Party (LP) that supports the pro-Duterte administration majority bloc in the Senate, said that peace should be given a chance.

"We hope the suspension of the talks is temporary and that both the GRP (Government of the Republic of

the Philippines) and the CPP/NDF/NPA will realize the insanity of war and the need to return to the negotiating table soon," he said.

Sen. Leila de Lima (LP) said the major reason for the breakdown of the peace talks is being projected to be the CPP-NPA-NDF's lifting of its ceasefire with the government due to the non-release of so-called political prisoners, she said.

"There is a misconception here. A ceasefire is a confidence-building measure, not a pre-condition to peace talks. The same is true with the release of political prisoners... Peace talks can continue without a ceasefire or the release of political prisoners," she said.

### NDF consultant detained

Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Carlos Zarate yesterday called the detention of National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) consultant Ariel Arbitrario Monday as a violation of the 1995 Joint Agreement on Security and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG).

Zarate, vice-chairman of the House Committee on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity, described JASIG as the agreement that governs the conduct of the Philippine government (GRP) and NDFP panels during its peace negotiations.

"We were informed just this morning. I think he was going to Davao del Sur. In one of the check points in Davao City he was held by elements of Task Force Davao," Zarate said of Arbitrario during a press conference at the House of Representatives.

"I think that is a violation of the Joint Agreement on Security and Immunity Guarantees, even a violation on the condition to grant bail for these

consultants," he said.

### Peace talks still possible

On Monday, rebel adviser Luis Jalandoni accused the military of violating the government's cease-fire by deploying troops in 500 villages across the country, occupying village halls and schools, and continuing surveillance operations that he said inevitably led to clashes.

The guerrillas want to continue with talks set for Feb. 22-25 in Europe

to negotiate a possible joint cease-fire agreement, Jalandoni said, adding the government has not issued the formal notice required to terminate the talks.

"We're saying the peace talks are still possible in the absence of a cease-fire," Jalandoni told radio DZMM by phone from Europe. (With reports from Hannah L. Torregoza, Mario Casayuran, Ellson A. Quismorio, and AP)

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DAILY NEWS

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# New crackdown on Reds snags 4

*Du30 calls on Interpol to arrest Joma; NDF invokes Jasig*

By Florante S. Solmerin, Pearl A. Gajunera  
and John Paolo Bencito

**T**HE military has begun arresting communists after President Rodrigo Duterte ended peace talks with them over a spate of rebel attacks on government troops.

Reports reaching Camp Aguinaldo Monday said Ariel Arbitrario, a consultant for the National Democratic Front, was arrested at a checkpoint in Davao City. He had been released last year to join peace talks with the government.

Arbitrario's arrest was confirmed by Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Zarate at a news briefing.

"The members of the government panel were already made aware of this. I hope this will be resolved soon so it will not complicate matters," Zarate said.

On Saturday, the military and police arrested a communist couple in Ozamis Port, Misamis Occidental.

The military identified the suspects as Lito Elmidolan alias Gary and wife Maria Bella Elmidolan alias Lalay or Thelma, ord-

nance technical staff and finance staff of the revolutionary movement based in the region.

The military said in spot report that they were arrested by virtue of a warrant of arrest issued by a regional trial court for multiple attempted murder.

NDF chief Fidel Agcaoili said all NDF consultants are protected by the Joint Agreement on Security and Immunity Guarantees (Jasig) that was recently reinforced during the third round of talks in Rome, Italy.

Arbitrario was accompanied by Roderick Mamuya, a regional liaison of the Southern Mindanao Regional Command of the New People's Army.

The two were immediately turned over to the police.

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## New...

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Over the weekend, Duterte ordered the military to arrest those he had released last year to join peace talks between the NDF and the government.

He said he would ask Interpol to issue warrants of arrest against CPP members living abroad, including their founder Jose Maria Sison.

The NDF reiterated that Duterte cannot just order the arrest of their members since they are covered by the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantee.

Duterte tagged the CPP-NPA-NDF as a terrorist group following a series of encounters between the NPA and the military in which several soldiers were killed. The attacks came while a rebel-declared unilateral ceasefire was still in place.

Duterte visited the wakes of the soldiers who were killed by the NPA in different areas of Mindanao.

On Sunday, a rebel was killed when his group encountered soldiers from the 76th Infantry Battalion Sunday in Sitio Kalibun Libunan, Barangay Pinagturilan, Sta. Cruz, Occidental Mindoro.

1st Lt. Xy-zon Meneses, spokesman of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division, said the encounter happened at around 2p.m.

"The [rebels] were believed to be part of [a] group that attacked a security detachment in Nasugbu, Batangas last Jan. 31... The firefight lasted for 30 minutes and resulted in the death of one NPA [rebel]," Meneses said.

Soldiers seized two improvised bombs, a cal .45 pistol with magazine, magazines of the M16A1, a pair of binoculars and four backpacks containing personal belongings and documents.

Clashes between government troops and rebels were also reported in Barangay Hinambangan, Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte, in Barangay Cabatangaa, Lambunao, Hoilo, and in Sitio Bantolinao, Barangay Amutag, Aroroy, Masbate, on Saturday, but no casualties were reported.

In the Masbate encounter, the military said they recovered a Garand rifle, an SAS-12 shotgun with ammunition, an improvised shotgun, a cal. 38, a short M16 magazine fully loaded, two improvised bombs and documents.

Duterte on Monday continued his tirades against communist rebels, branding them "spoiled brats" for asking too much from the government.

"I tried my best to make peace with everybody... But these communists, they're spoiled brats. They make demands as if they're the government. They said [they would rescind their ceasefire] Feb. 10 but they already killed my soldiers, even the police. Sons-of-bitches, now we're at war," Duterte said.

"Peace is not possible during our generation. I'm sorry. I'm not about to talk to them again," he said.

Duterte told reporters that he no longer was interested in negotiating with the communists who had fooled him.

He also reiterated that he would not give in to their demands that he release all political prisoners.

"I released their leaders to enable them to go to Oslo. I released the Tiamzons, the ideologues. But from six, it became 18, and now they want 400," the President said.

"They said that they're already exempted [from arrest], but once they arrive here... they will be arrested and they should go back to prison," he added.

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II said the 17 consultants of the NDF who participated in the peace talks would be rearrested.

"Once they turn themselves in or are arrested, they will be returned to their detention," Aguirre said.

NDF legal consultant Edre Olalia, however, said consultants released on bail cannot be arrested again, even if Duterte ordered it.

Olalia said the peace talks had not been properly terminated, so the consultants still enjoyed immunity from surveillance, harassment, search, arrest, detention, prosecution and interrogation. **With Mari-cel V. Cruz, Sara Susanne D. Fabunan**

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## NDF: Soldiers' rubout meant to mislead Rody

By John Paolo Bencito and Maricel V. Cruz

COMMUNIST rebels on Monday claimed that the Armed Forces of the Philippines killed three of its own soldiers in Bukidnon to pin the blame on the New People's Army and to provoke President Rodrigo Duterte into cancelling peace talks.

"It could be a rubout from the AFP to pin the blame on

the NPA," said Luis Jalandoni, chairman of the negotiating panel of the National Democratic Front [NDF]. "It could be possible that the military themselves killed the soldiers [to railroad the peace talks] ... Because the NPA doesn't have this policy to waste bullets in a single encounter," Jalandoni told GMA-7 in a TV interview from Utrecht, The Netherlands.

Three soldiers were killed by

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## NDF:....

From A1

a group of armed men believed to be NPA rebels in Malaybalay City, Bukidnon Wednesday last week, with soldiers sustaining 76 gunshot wounds among them.

The military dismissed the NDF suggestion.

"That's a big lie," said Col. Edgard Arevalo, AFP Public Information Office chief in a TV interview.

"It's never [the practice] of the military to kill its own soldiers," he said.

Jalandoni rejected Duterte's pronouncement that the CCP-NPA-NDF was a terrorist group, saying they have been working with the government to achieve peace.

Jalandoni said this might have been an "emotional reaction" from the President following the soldiers' deaths.

"We reject [President Duterte's] statements against the NPA, because he himself cooperated for more than 30 years with revolutionary forces in Mindanao," he added.

Jalandoni also said the NDF is in full control of its armed wing amid doubts raised by Malacañang over the apparent disconnect between the communist negotiators and their ground forces.

"We are sure," Jalandoni said. "Those who know the situation

in the Philippines know that the CPP-NPA-NDF and the negotiating panel are united."

"If there are intrigues, these are coming from the military because they don't want to have peace talks," he added.

A leftist lawmaker on Monday expressed hope that the President would reconsider his decision to scuttle peace talks with the communists.

Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate, vice chairman of the House committee on peace, reconciliation and unity, described Duterte's decision as "very unfortunate."

"We hope that the President will reconsider his decision because in less than a year the peace talks have significantly progressed. In the same breath, the peace process should continue even without a ceasefire in place," Zarate said.

"Considering the advances already made in so short a period these past months in the substantive agenda of the talks, these troubling developments do not augur well in solving the root causes of the armed conflict in our country," Zarate said. "It will only embolden the militarists in and out of the government to continue a system that impoverished our country and people, as well as spawned widespread violations of human rights."

Ako Bicol party-list Rep. Alfredo Garbin, on the other hand, supported the President's decision.

"We strongly support the Presi-

dent's decision to withdraw from the negotiations with the NDF. The government, through our President, has already given too much in terms of concessions to the members of the NDF in the hopes of having a fruitful peace talks," Garbin said.

Garbin said the recent declarations and actions of the communists belie their claim that they are willing to continue with the peace talks.

Surigao del Sur First District Rep. Prospero Pichay and former AFP chief Rodolfo Biazon on Monday appealed to Duterte and the CPP-NPA-NDF to pursue the peace negotiations.

At a media forum at the Manila Hotel, both Pichay and Biazon urged both sides to stop the armed struggle and to pursue peace instead.

"We cannot end the peace process. The only problem is we have to study the structure of the peace process itself. The issue, number one, is who should they talk to? Preconditions should not be imposed before the peace process, before the talks. Whatever concessions that are being sought, whatever changes or reforms are being sought, should be products of the final peace agreement," said Biazon.

Also, both sides must understand that not all that is being asked by the CPP-NPA-NDF in terms of reforms are within the powers of the President to grant, he added.

Pichay emphasized the importance of pursuing the peace negotiations.

A peace advocacy group also appealed to Duterte to change his mind.

The Kapayapaan Campaign for a Just Peace said a termination or even suspension of the talks would reverse the "positive and substantial" gains achieved in three rounds of talks between the government and the NDF.

Senator Paolo Benigno Aquino IV said if the communists were serious about resuming peace talks, they should surrender those responsible for killing the soldiers in Bukidnon.

While peace is the ultimate goal, he said, parties must go to the negotiating table in good faith.

"Only then can we end this conflict and, finally, build a path toward prosperity for our poor countrymen," said Aquino.

Senator Panfilo Lacson said the President did the right thing, and said the CCP and NDF needed to coordinate with their armed wing, the NPA.

On Feb. 3, the AFP issued a memo to all unit commanders to lift the suspension of military operations and ordered full combat operations against the NPA. The memo also ordered attached units prone to rebel attack to pull out from their areas to secure military installations. **With Sandy Araneta, Macon Ramos-Araneta and Florante S. Solmerin**

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## 'Left-leaning' Cabinet members to stay: Palace

BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR

DESPITE government's falling out with the Communist Party of the Philippines, Communications Secretary Martin Andanar yesterday said "left-leaning" members of the Cabinet have not been barred from attending the Cabinet meetings and are still welcome in the President's family.

Andanar, in an interview with radio DZRH, said there has been no order or even a "text" message asking Secretaries Judy Taguiwalo of Social Welfare and Development, Rafael Mariano of Agrarian Reform, and Liza Maza of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) to refrain from attending Cabinet meetings in Malacañang following the scrapping of the peace talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF).

It could be recalled that Vice President Leni Robredo and Commission on Higher

See LEFT-LEANING ► Page B6

### LEFT-LEANING

Education Chairwoman Patricia Licuanan were ordered by President Duterte last December, through Cabinet Secretary Leoncio Evasco Jr., to refrain from further attending Cabinet meetings due to their differences in opinion.

Anandar said he does not want to preempt the President's decision.

He added that the left-leaning Cabinet officials have proven themselves effective in their current positions.

The President on Saturday said he is scrapping the peace talks with the CPP-NPA-NDF

following their demands for the release of some 400 prisoners and their withdrawal of their unilateral ceasefire.

Duterte also labeled the local communist group, which endorsed the appointments of the three Cabinet officials, as a terrorist group and spoiled brats.

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# Hunt for NDF, NPA leaders begins

BY VICTOR REYES

WITH the collapse of the peace talks, government forces yesterday started arresting consultants of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines.

First to fall into the hands of the military was Ariel Mancao Arbitrario, who was nabbed around 9 a.m. at a checkpoint put up by soldiers and policemen in barangay Sirawan in Toril district.

Capt. Rhyan Batchar, public affairs officer of the Army's 10th Infantry Division, said Arbitrario was arrested with New People's Army leader Roderick Manuyac, who has a standing warrant of arrest for murder. He could not immediately say the specific position of Manuyac in the rebel movement.

Batchar said Arbitrario, an NPA guerrilla front leader, was arrested by virtue of the pronouncement of President Duterte to arrest NDFP consultants who were released from detention last year so they can join the peace talks.

Duterte issued the statement as he terminated the peace negotiations with the communist-led NPA. Earlier, he ordered the lifting of the government ceasefire because of NPA attacks that have left six soldiers dead, including an officer, and three others abducted.

Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Carlos Zarate said Arbitrario cannot be arrested by soldiers because "only the courts can order a re-arrest of a detainee who is out on bail. Kung wala pang ini-issue or di pa kinansel ng court ang bail ng isang detainee e di there is no reason for the military to arrest these consultants."

There were 17 NDFP consultants who were released in August last year, prior to the resumption of the talks. They include communist party chairman Benito Tiamzon and his wife, CPP secretary general Wilma Austria.

But AFP public affairs chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said the subject of the operation was actually

Manuyac, and that Arbitrario was also taken into custody because he was caught in the company of a wanted person.

Arbitrario and Manuyac are in the custody of the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

In a statement, NDFP chief negotiator Fidel Agcaoili said his group is waiting for a formal notice from the government on the termination of the negotiations.

Agcaoili said the 17 NDFP consultants released last August are not in hiding. He said 17 consultants returned to the Philippines as of Jan. 31, following the completion of the third round of talks in Rome from Jan. 19 to 25.

He said the NDFP consultants should not be arrested because they are immune from arrest under the JASIG.

He said the NDFP remains firm "in its commit-

## HUNT

ment to struggle for a just and lasting peace in the country in accordance with the national and democratic aspirations of the Filipino people."

### MORE OPERATIONS

The military has initiated several operations against the rebels following the lifting of the government truce.

One of the operations in Sta. Cruz town in Occidental Mindoro resulted in the death of one of the rebels and recovery of two improvised bombs, a pistol, two magazines for M16 rifle, binoculars, four backpacks, personal belongings and rebel documents.

1Lt. Xy-zel Meneses, spokesman of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division, said soldiers from the 73rd Infantry Battalion clashed with the rebels in barangay Pinagturihan around 2 p.m. last Sunday.

In Misamis Occidental, two NPA officials were arrested by soldiers and policemen at the Ozamis City port in Misamis Occidental last Saturday afternoon.

They were NPA ordnance and technical staff Lito Elmidolan alias Gary, and his wife, NPA finance officer Maria Bella Elmidolan alias Lalay and Thelma. They were arrested by virtue of a warrant for attempted murder.

Soldiers also clashed with NPA rebels in barangay Hinimbingan in Kitcharao town in Agusan del Norte last Sunday noon; in barangay Cabatangan in Lambunao town in Iloilo last Saturday noon, and in barangay Amutag in Aroroy town in Masbate last Saturday morning; in barangay Little Baguio in Malita, Davao Occidental yesterday morning.

No one was reported killed on the government side in the three government-initiated skirmishes.

Several NPA rebels were believed to have been injured following a firefight with Army soldiers in barangay Mati, Surigao City on Sunday morning. The rebels were blamed for an attack in the same barangay last Jan. 29, leaving three soldiers wounded.

In Manay town in Davao Oriental, an NPA supporter surrendered to government troops last Sunday afternoon. The suspect, whose name was withheld, brought with him an improvised bomb.

tela Valley, NPA rebels attacked a banana packing plant of DOLE Stanfilco in barangay Araibo on Sunday night. The rebels burned a facility, valued at P1 million, and fled, Batchar said.

### SPOILED BRAT

President Duterte likened the CPP-NPA-NDF to a "spoiled brat," for being too demanding and arrogant.

Duterte said he has scrapped the peace talks with the CPP-NPA-NDF completely and he is giving leaders of the communist group who have been temporarily freed from prison a few days to return and continue serving their jail sentence.

He said he is ordering the police and military to re-arrest the leaders once they return to the country.

He said there is no need to submit a formal notice of termination of the peace talks and the stoppage of the JASIG, adding that he does not take orders from the CPP-NPA-NDF.

Chief presidential legal counsel Salvador Panelo said the President's public announcement already serves as a formal notice to the communist group. He said the paperwork would just be a formality and would be sent later on.

Duterte added that he does not see the possibility of peace happening with the communist rebels during the present generation.

"I'm sorry. I am not about to talk to them again. Kasi na-release ko na lahat eh. Ni-release ko na lahat iyung mga leaders nila to enable them to go to Oslo. Oslo provided the good offices for a diplomatic solution. Na-release ko na iyung Tiamzon, iyung mga ideologues... Ang yayabang pa magsalita. Ako nagho-hold lang ako. I have to swallow minsan my being humble, okay lang. Pero sumobra itong...pagka ganoon, fight tayo," he said.

The President was referring to the rebel group's demand for the release of some 400 prisoners to continue the talks.

But Zarate said it is not the time to drop the peace talks.

"Yes, temperatures are hot, but we can let it simmer down first. This situation is very critical and sensitive, that's why we have to go back to the negotiat-

In a statement read by Rep. Alfredo Garbin, Ako Bicol party-list backed the President's stand, saying the recent declarations and actions of the communists "believe their claim willingness to continue with the peace talks."

Ako Bicol said the government "has already given too much in terms of concessions to the members of the NDF in the hopes of having a fruitful peace talks."

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II said the 17 consultants will be detained if they turn themselves in or are arrested by state security forces.

"Yes (They can be arrested), they have to be returned to their detention cells," he said.

"May kasunduan na after six months ay babalik sila kung hindi matapos ang peace talks. Kapag hindi sila sumunod sa kasunduan ay wanted na sila," he added.

"The President has given the orders to arrest upon entry to the Philippine soil," PNP chief Ronald dela Rosa said.

He said the CIDG will coordinate with the Bureau of Immigration to arrest upon arrival spouses Benito and Wilma Tiamzon, Vic Ladlad, Afelberto Silva, Alfonso Jazmines, Alfredo Mapano, Loida Magpatoc, Pedro Cudaste, Ruben Salota, Ernesto Lorenzo, Porferio Tuna, Renante Gamara, and Tirso Alcantara.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III and Sen. Panfilo Lacson said the peace talks could still resume.

Lacson said the termination of the truce was a good move so that parties would have time to rethink their positions.

Sen. Paolo Benigno Aquino IV said the NDF should surrender to government NPA members involved in the ambush of soldiers in Bukidnon.

Marbel Bishop Dinualdo Gutierrez said the government must explore other means of attaining peace in the countryside outside the failed peace negotiations, mainly by lifting the people out of poverty.

"What the government should do is solve the problems of poverty. Once the poor are provided help in uplifting them from their poor situation, they will have a difficulty in recruiting for the New People's Army (NPA)," said Gutierrez. — *With Jocelyn Montemayor, Wendell Vigilia, Ashzel Hachero, Raymond Africa, Gerard Nana and IP Lobez*

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**BusinessMirror**

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# Peace group pleads with Duterte: Continue peace talks with NDF

BY MARVYN N. BENANING | *Correspondent*

**A** PEACE-ADVOCACY group has asked President Duterte to change his mind about ending the peace talks with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDF).

In a statement, the Kapayapaan Campaign for a Just Peace (Kapayapaan) said a termination or even suspension of the talks would reverse the “positive and substantial gains achieved by three rounds of talks between the government and the revolutionary movement”.

Kapayapaan was formed in early-2015 as a campaign network pushing for the resumption of the peace talks under then-President Benigno S. Aquino III.

Among its original members were then-Davao City Mayor Rodrigo R. Duterte and Party-list Rep. Silvestre H. Bello III of 1-BAP, now chairman of the government’s peace panel.

“The way we see it, the talks are progressing at an unprecedented rate. It would be tragic for the President to stop the talks at this point. It is unfortunate that both sides have lifted their unilat-

eral cease-fire declarations, but the talks can and should continue,” said Fr. Ben Alforque, Kapayapaan convener.

He said that in the third round of talks last month, the government and NDF panels signed a supplemental agreement on human rights and international humanitarian law, while their reciprocal working committees agreed on several provisions of the Comprehensive Agreement on Social and Economic Reforms.

On top of that, drafts were exchanged on the agreement on political and constitutional reforms, while talks for a bilateral cease-fire are scheduled later this month.

“President Duterte does not have to look far to find a compelling reason to continue the talks. Peace is the only and most compelling reason for the talks. We ask the President to stay the course. Please listen to the cry of the poor and the na-

tion. It is in their behalf that peace negotiations should continue,” added Alforque, his former colleague at Kapayapaan.

### **'Left' groups to Duterte: Please reconsider**

PARTY-LIST Rep. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate of Bayan Muna has urged Duterte to reconsider his decision to terminate the peace negotiations with the NDF.

Zarate, vice chairman of the House Committee on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity, described as “very unfortunate” Duterte’s ending the peace negotiations between the GRP and the NDF.

“We hope that the President will reconsider his decision because in less than a year, the peace talks have significantly progressed. In the same breath, the peace process should continue even without a cease-fire in place,” Zarate argued.

Zarate is an observer of the peace negotiations and was on hand to see how the latest edition of the talks progressed in Rome.

The Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People’s Army (NPA) announced the termination of their unilateral cease-fire on February 3, saying the truce will end at 11:59 p.m. of February 10.

They justified their decision by saying the Duterte administration had not reined in its troops, leading to clashes with the NPA, and at least 20 farmers and lumad leaders were killed during the cease-fire,

practically all of them shot dead by suspected soldiers or paramilitary men employed by the Duterte administration.

Moreover, the promised freedom of nearly 400 detained activists did not materialize, and Duterte insisted he never promised to free anyone, considering them as “aces” in the negotiations, a position consistent with the tack of the military.

“Considering the advances already made in so short a period these past months on the substantive agenda of the talks, these troubling developments do not augur well in solving the root causes of the armed conflict in our country. It will only embolden the militarists in and out of the government to continue a system that impoverished our country and people, as well as spawned widespread violations of human rights,” Zarate warned.

Continuing the peace negotiations is in the best interest of farmers who are pressing for genuine land reform, land distribution and real change under the Duterte administration.

This was declared by the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP), after Duterte ordered the termination of the peace talks.

“Farmers want the peace negotiations to continue. We want the peace talks to help address the problem of land monopoly, landlessness of farmers, unemployment and to realize the equitable distribution of social wealth,” KMP Chairman Joseph Canlas said.



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## Govt resumes assaults on rebels after talks scrapped



**JALANDONI:**  
“We’re saying the peace talks are still possible in the absence of a cease-fire.”

**G**OVERNMENT troops have resumed assaults against communist rebels, killing at least one guerrilla, after President Duterte scrapped peace talks with the insurgents, military officials said on Monday.

Duterte on Friday lifted the government’s six-month-old cease-fire with the rebels, and said on Saturday he was discarding the talks brokered by Norway. Those moves came after the Marxist guerrillas abandoned their own truce and killed six soldiers and kidnapped two others in new flare-ups in the 48-year insurgency.

The government and the rebels separately declared cease-fires last year to foster the peace talks, which progressed steadily for months before rapidly deteriorating in recent weeks.

On Monday rebel adviser Luis Jalandoni accused the military of violating the government’s cease-fire by deploying troops in 500 villages across the country, occupying village halls and schools, and continuing surveillance operations that he said inevitably led to clashes.

The guerrillas want to continue with talks set from February 22 to 25 in Europe to negotiate a possible joint cease-fire agreement, Jalandoni said, adding the government has not issued the formal notice required to terminate the talks.

“We’re saying the peace talks are still possible in the absence of a cease-fire,” Jalandoni told radio dzMM by telephone from Europe. Troops have resumed combat operations after Duterte lifted the cease-fire, military spokesman Col. Edgard A. Arevalo said. The operations were in response to complaints from villagers of rebel extortion and efforts to rescue the kidnapped soldiers, he said.

Army troops clashed with about 20 New People’s Army guerrillas last Sunday in Occidental Mindoro province, south of Manila, killing one rebel, and last Saturday troops and policemen arrested a rebel couple in Misamis Occidental province in the South for a multiple attempted murder case, the military said. At least three other combat operations were staged elsewhere.

Duterte called the insurgents terrorists for their attacks on troops, and said several rebel leaders who were temporarily freed to join the peace talks should be returned to jail, threatening to have them arrested if they refused.

Jalandoni, however, said the 17 freed rebels are protected by a 1995 agreement, under which the government agreed to grant them immunity from arrest while serving as peace-talks consultants. All have returned to the Philippines after joining a recent round of talks in Rome and should not be arrested, he said.

Duterte has said he may reconsider his decision if there was a compelling reason, but he did not elaborate.

The setback in the talks is the latest reality check for Duterte, whose crackdown on illegal drugs, which has killed thousands of drug

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## Thousands stranded by transport strike

By PERSEUS ECHEMINADA

At least 15,000 commuters in Metro Manila were affected by the transport holiday staged by some groups that protested the government's jeepney phaseout plan.

Around 12 routes were affected, some of which were "paralyzed," according to the Joint Quick Response Team (JQRT) composed of different government agencies.

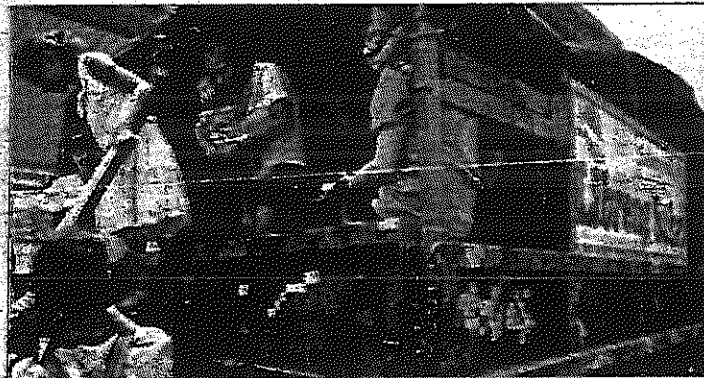
It fizzled out in some parts of the country though as some public transport groups decid-

ed not to join the mass action.

But the Samahan ng Tsiperat Operator ng Pilipinas Genuine Organization (Stop and Go), which led the strike, said they are already preparing for a "more organized and bigger second stage" of the protest.

Stop and Go leader Jun Magno, who said yesterday's strike was a success, apologized for the inconvenience their actions may have caused as he reiterated their protest against the decision of the Land Transportation Franchising and

Turn to Page 10



Commuters get off a military truck at Taft Avenue in Manila yesterday. The Armed Forces of the Philippines deployed trucks along routes of public utility jeepneys to help transport commuters during yesterday's transport strike.

EDD GUMBAN

## Thousands From Page 1

Regulatory Board (LTFRB) over the jeepney phaseout.

LTFRB board member Aileen Lizada contradicted Magno's "success" claim, insisting that it only affected less than 1 percent of the riding public in the National Capital Region. The JQRT assisted 15,420 passengers as of 5:30 p.m. yesterday.

"We have a ridership of over five million, based on estimates. That gives you more or less .3 percent of the commuting public. They have not even reached one percent," Lizada said.

She identified the affected areas as Baclaran, Rizal Avenue, Blumetritt, Nichols, Valenzuela, Market-Market to C-5

(Taguig) and Pususan, and Carujatan.

The transport holiday also slightly affected areas in Commonwealth going to Fairview, Marcos Highway to Cainta and Antipolo, and Guadalupe going to C-5 McKinley and Housing Taguig. — With Perseus Echeminada, Non Alquitran, Rey Galupo, Jose Rodol Clapano, Rainier Allan Ronda, Cecille Suerte Felipe, Ghio Ong

Army Vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride

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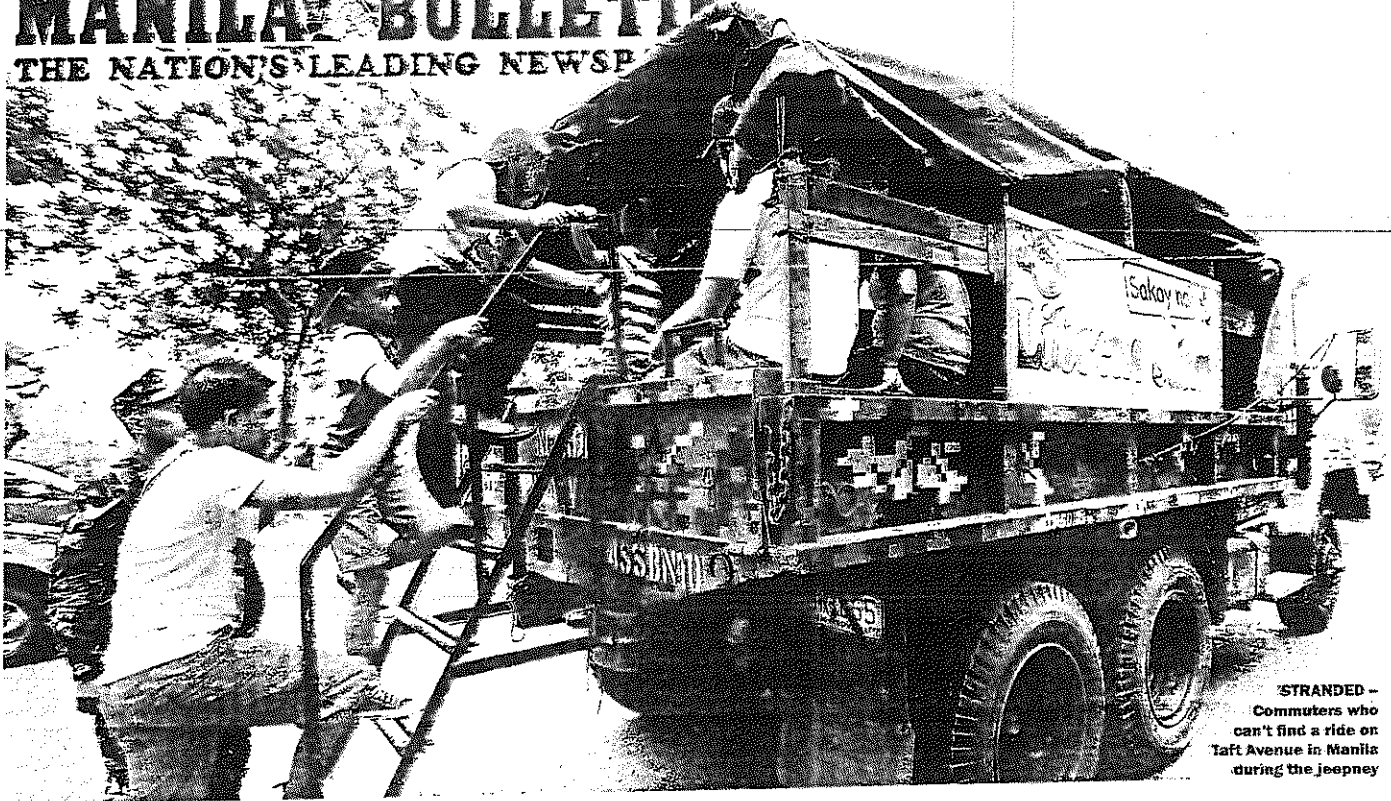
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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1900

**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



**STRANDED** – Commuters who can't find a ride on Taft Avenue in Manila during the jeepney

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## Stopping the scourge of terror: The biggest challenge of 2017

Every time I visit the United States, my penchant for reading brings me to Barnes and Noble where I browse and ponder on books of my interest. In my recent trip, I got so engrossed with the topic of ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria), aka ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant), aka IS (Islamic State).

Two books in particular caught my attention. ISIS, by Robert Spencer, 2015, and How to Win the Global War Against Radical Islam by Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn (Ret), 2014. Whatever bias these books may have presented was balanced by my stock knowledge, international training and exposure on the subject matter.

After reading through these times and much careful thought, it became even clearer to me that the biggest challenge for 2017 is the scourge of terror.

### Knowing ISIS

ISIS, a militant fundamentalist group that has been designated as a terrorist organization by the United Nations, is the most successful.

It is also the wealthiest with vast financial resources "from oil production and smuggling, ransom from kidnappings and selling stolen artifacts ...," making it the most dangerous terror group in the world at the present time.

Its reign has rivaled the atrocities of Mao Tse-Tung, Pol Pot, etc., and it has embarked on a campaign against non-Muslims and non-Sharia government, all in the name of establishing an Islamic state.

How did ISIS become what it is today? How did it develop its power base? Many analysts have advanced various reasons why Muslims all over the world have joined ISIS. Max Abraham, a terrorism expert at the Northeastern University, summed up the prevailing view when he said, "If you ask a terrorist, many would probably fail the most basic test in Islam. Here are some of the reasons:

Poor education, failure of Arab education, an us-versus-them mentality along ethnic, ideological and sectarian lines, making youth vulnerable to external influence."

Furthermore, joblessness and poverty, anger and oppression, bad governance, lack of trust in the West, especially in the US, failure to redress justice, the thrills, the chills, helping the down-trodden, girls and guns, all these add to the mystique and the myth.

If a comparison were to be made with the history of violence in Southern Philippines, many similarities are present, both in the past and in the present day. In fact, it even approximates some of the conditions that led to the rise of local insurgency.

Many of the participants come from the youth sector, whose mindset can easily be manipulated and exploited by unscrupulous groups.

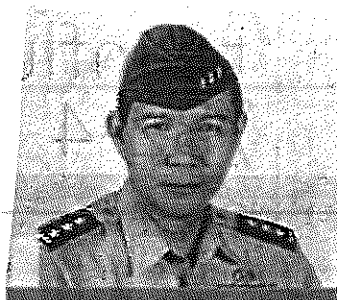
In simple terms, they lack the ideological maturity to understand what they are fighting for.

Islamic appeal worldwide is bringing about a domino effect. ISIS recruits have been inspired to travel to Iraq, Syria, and Libya. Despite condemnation, Muslims and non-Muslims alike all over the world are being drawn to join and fight for the cause that ISIS stands for. The zeal, the resources, the fundamentalism all add up to make ISIS the most pressing danger of our time.

What challenges does this scourge forebode for our country? Are we prepared to confront the massive ISIS offensive?

The cycle of violence follows a series of events that start with atrocity, which create shock, terror, fear, grief, anger, bitterness, revenge and retaliation, and back to atrocity. According to Paul Rogers, "The War on Violence," intervention must be initiated at the level of atrocity to arrest the cycle. So far, the efforts of the government, especially the ongoing

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## MAPPING THE FUTURE

JAIME S. DE LOS SANTOS

Movement, Al Khobal group and ASG continue to wreak havoc, challenging the authorities. A Filipino was arrested in Kuwait on her way to join the ISIS. Her husband is an active fighter within Libya (AFP, 26 Dec 2016)

### Understanding ISIS

Islamic State Caliph Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi sent out a message on the eve of his tactical defeat in Ramadi in Dec. 2015: "Stand up against the tyrant and apostate people of [Saudi Coalition] and champion your brothers in Levant, Iraq, Yemen, Afghanistan, the Caucasus, Egypt, Libya, Somalia, the Philippines, Africa, Indonesia, Turkestan, Bangladesh and everywhere"

According to the International Center for the Study of Radicalization and Political Violence, "...the territory controlled by ISIS now ranks as the place with the highest number of foreign fighters since Afghanistan in the 1980s, with recent estimates putting the total number of foreign recruits at around 20,000." In the ICSR paper, around 20 percent were nationals of Western European countries.

Many of the recruits made initial contact with ISIS and its ideology through the internet. The online propaganda has enhanced the capacity to carry out terrorist attacks, even without traveling to the Middle East. With their emerging strength in the digital front, the radical Islam war of domination has been picking up even greater momentum. In the article "How to Marginalize the Islamic State" online, author Jared Cohen writes, "The group has relied extensively on the Internet to market its poisonous ideology and recruit would-be terrorists."

Their successful recruitment online gives reason for more stringent monitoring of their digital activities.

In short, ISIS is a cult of Jihad. They possess influential media production units that can demon-

strate and project power. They expand their radicalism through extensive use of the internet. This method has facilitated the recruitment of many Americans, British, Australians, Europeans, many of whom are Christian women. Many are teenagers who learned about ISIS through social media. There are likewise existing terror cells in the Philippines. Many youth have already been enchanted into participation. The possibility to intensify further is high.

These then beg serious questions that bear on every citizen, especially the Commander in Chief.

a. Are we able to recognize the nature and extent of the threat? The infiltration of terrorist groups in Southern Philippine continues. Shall we wait for another Ipil attack or Zamboanga siege, and Mamasapano massacre to realize the magnitude of terror?"

Let us not take the position of denial or alarmist to project a "manageable" or "situation under control" status.

b. Do we possess the technical, operational, and intelligence capabilities in the face of such realities? The AFP and the PNP lack the sophisticated technical know-how and equipage that can detect and pursue real terror, latent or active.

That is the reason why US forces are in Southern Philippines. They provide the technical and intelligence support as well as the expert human resources against the war on terror. Their absence will create a significant vacuum on the most basic level, even in tracking potential terror activities or containing the threat.

On the other hand, their presence can also be seen as courting disaster because the US and its allies are considered as anathema to their cause.

On the aspect of intelligence gathering and psychological operations that include social media,

we are no match to the ISIS. Substantial resources in manpower and equipment are essential, an investment that is not on our priority list. Furthermore, save for the AFP-PNP, NBI, and other government agencies involved in security and enforcement, the bigger part of the bureaucracy is not primed for basic intelligence work. They only know intelligence funds.

c. Do we recognize that the war on terror is not the responsibility of the security forces alone? It is a national concern that requires the involvement and participation of the whole citizenry. But if the public is encouraged to get involved and participate in security measures, militant groups cry militarization. What then is the action alternative left for us to keep our country and our people safe?

The drug menace destroys humanity while terror destroys both humanity and civilization. Such a double whammy gives us no choice but to gear up and work double time, if we are to keep out the scourge of terror from swallowing us in its terrible wake.  
INQ



The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines or MAP. The author is a member of the M.A.P. National Issues Committee, the 42nd Commanding General of the Philippine Army, the 1st Force Commander of the UN Peacekeeping Force in East Timor, presently part-time Professorial Lecturer at UP Diliman, and Director, Graduate Studies at the Manuel L. Quezon University. Feedback at <map@map.org.ph> and <jaime\_dlsantos@yahoo.com> jimmydlsantos@gmail.com>. For previous articles, please visit <map.org.ph>

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Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

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# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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## What price peace?

In a series of statements over the weekend, President Duterte went from calm to ballistic against the National Democratic Front of the Philippines.

He started on Thursday by saying he would ignore the New People's Army's scheduled lifting of its unilateral ceasefire and would respond "in the fullness of God's time." By Sunday, not only had he ordered the resumption of military offensives against the NPA, he also announced the termination of the peace talks altogether, ordered the arrest of the NDFP negotiators, and labelled them "terrorists and criminals."

The President's statements came as a shock even to the negotiating panels and the various parties involved in the peace talks. After all, the negotiations were doing quite well and surpassing expectations.

The third round of formal talks, held in Rome on Jan. 19-25, saw the two panels signing a supplementary agreement to revive and strengthen the joint monitoring committee for their human rights agreement signed way back in 1999.

With respect to the agreement on social and economic reforms, the parties reached an agreement on the first three sections of the draft, including the key issue of free land distribution to landless farmers. To expedite the process, the parties agreed to form bilateral working teams to meet continuously before the resumption of the formal talks scheduled on April 2-6.

### COMMENTARY

TEDDY A. CASIÑO

On the proposed agreement on political and constitutional reforms, the reciprocal working groups of both sides exchanged their respective drafts and initial views.

While no agreement was reached on the government's proposed bilateral ceasefire agreement, talks on the matter were scheduled in the Netherlands on Feb. 22-27.

But it seems the President was not briefed about these developments when he made his statements last week. He was apparently even unaware that the negotiators of both sides had already returned to the country from Rome.

It's more than just ignorance. The President is obviously irritated by the NDFP's insistence that he deliver on his earlier promise to release 400 or so political prisoners. Doing so, he admitted, would make him face a coup d'état, or even murder, at the hands of the military. He said such sentiments were apparent in the "vibrations" and "suggestions" he got during his "coffee time, relaxed moments" with his men.

Adding to the President's agony over the political prisoners' release were recent clashes between government troops and the NPA that resulted in the deaths of several soldiers. He probably had to pander

even more to the military and assure it of his loyalty, given his previous admissions to being a "leftist" and "socialist."

Mr. Duterte is frustrated at the NPA's lifting of its unilateral ceasefire because, like previous presidents, he wants an end to the fighting even before a final peace agreement is reached.

But the aim of the talks is not just to end the fighting but also to address the roots of the armed conflict. Thus, much patience, diligence and courage are needed. Insisting on a premature ceasefire and throwing tantrums won't help.

More than this, the President shouldn't allow himself to be held back in his peace efforts. As commander in chief, he is in the best position to convince his soldiers that in winning the peace, talking is just as important as, and probably even more crucial than, fighting.

Releasing the political prisoners paves the way for a bilateral ceasefire with the NPA that, in turn, will allow both sides to vigorously pursue the peace talks to its desired conclusion.

The question is: How far is the President willing to go to forge a just and lasting peace? If he can stick his neck out for his war on drugs, then he should be ready to stick it out for peace.

Teddy A. Casiño is an activist who served as Bayan Muna party-list's representative in Congress in 2004-2013. He is now back in the parliament of the streets.

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## Shooting Straight

By BOBIT S. AVILA

### AFP should focus on fighting insurgency



There was a shooting incident some three years ago in broad daylight between two Korean groups right in front of the Peace Convent in AS Fortuna, Mandau City and while the news of this incident made the local headlines, however as soon as this report disappeared from the news headlines, people simply forgot it. What it was about anyway only involved Korean nationals. We were playing golf at the Cebu Country Club that afternoon and we could hear the gunshots from the golf course.

So the speculation of many people is that this is the handiwork of Korean gangs vs. Korean gangs or call them the Korean Mafia. I also asked our Korean friends if they knew something about that incident... most of them simply shrugged their shoulders saying they don't know anything about it. So when Pres. Rodrigo "Digong" Duterte came up with the news that a Korean Mafia was involved in illegal drugs and prostitution in Cebu, this is not an entirely far-fetched scenario. However, I'm sure those Korean gangs could have done it without the help or support of rogue cops.

However there is a strange Korean trait... they only take care of the needs of their fellow Koreans... whether it is monetary, housing, tourism needs like tour guides or illegal drugs or prostitutes. The key to stopping their business is to ask the help of the South Korean Intelligence groups as a way of identifying who are these people because I'm sure that our police intelligence had no idea as to who these people are and after that incident we didn't hear of anymore reports on this.

Indeed we have a million Koreans who travel to this country and settle in key cities throughout the archipelago... for sure the majority of them are law-abiding people... but I have no doubt that the bad eggs of South Korea are also operating in this country. So seeking the cooperation of South Korean Police Intelligence is a step in the right direction.

This brings us to the headline of the Philippine STAR yesterday which blared "Foreign Businessmen Fear for their Safety" Call it a perception but nonetheless it is a serious one. I'm sure that these foreign businessmen are certainly not into illegal drugs, so they have nothing to fear. But when they read reports that rogue cops are into the kidnap-for-ransom business, it strikes fear on these foreigners simply because the police are supposedly the protectors of our people... they are not supposed to be the criminals! If you ask me the Duterte administration must seriously look into the concerns of these foreign businessmen and assure them of their safety.

President Duterte has asked the Peace Panel "To fold up their tents and return home." It is his way of saying that peace between the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the Philippine government cannot be achieved for as long as their armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA) cancelled the unilateral ceasefire they earlier agreed to hold. When initially Pres. Duterte gave concession to the CPP/ NDF/ NPA, people were skeptical because we were not getting anything in return.

But now no less than Pres. Duterte has ran out of patience with his friends in the underground movement, simply because of a serious lack of sincerity on the part of the CPP leadership. Indeed, even Pres. Duterte admits that he has bent backward so much with nothing in return. So now it's back to the shooting war that have permeated the countryside for 40 years.

At this point, I exhort Pres. Duterte that he ought to reconsider using the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in the fight against rogue cops. I fully concur with the comments of Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson who said that this is quite a dangerous scenario. He doesn't want two armed government groups fighting it out against each other. Indeed, let the AFP instead focus on the fight against the communist rebels while the rogue cops can be handled by another agency. There is no sense for the AFP to fight a battle on two fronts; one against rogue cops, while fighting the NPAs.

There is no question that achieving peace is no easy task that I dare say that it is only under the Duterte Presidency that there was hope that finally we could come up with a lasting peace. But since the CPP believes that they are in a position of strength, they scoffed at the peace process opting to fight with their armed regulars. So they blew up the chance for peace!

Ask yourself... how many Presidents have we had in the last 40 years and how many times have the CPP changed its leadership? From the time of then Pres. Ferdinand E. Marcos the CPP was headed by Jose Maria "Toma" Sison and the NDF headed by Fr. Luis Jalandoni. No one elected them into power and the NPAs roam the countryside brandishing high-powered firearms with impunity... giving the world the impression that the Philippines is not a nation of laws... but of men... in arms.

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# THE PHILIPPINE STAR

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## Up, up and away!

The Philippine International Hot-Air Balloon Fiesta (PIHABF) opens on Thursday, Feb. 9, with an unusual heart-thumping ceremony. At the crack of dawn, a skydiver bails out of the helicopter with the Philippine flag, which unfurls as it descends and the bandmaster strikes *Lupang Hinirang* with the crowd joining in singing the National Anthem.

But the fiesta almost didn't take off this year.

Despite the lateness of the hour, with famous Filipino ingenuity, Capt. Joy Roa, (aka "This is your Captain..." at ABS-CBN's

*Air Safari* episodes) and his intrepid PIHABF volunteers opted to switch the venue to the Omni Aviation site at Clark. They had done the Hot-Air Balloon Fiesta there in 1997, 2003, 2005 and 2013.

The Philippine International Hot-Air Balloon Fiesta lives up to its reputation as one of the Philippines' most exciting fiestas, with overflow crowd at "A Weekend of Everything that Flies."

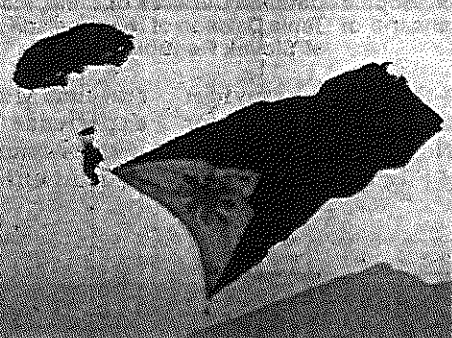
With over two decades flying high, PIHABF mounts a thrilling aviation event in the country. Aviators from all over the world participate at the different flying activities and cultural exchanges.

Miss Aviation Philippines 2016 **Kristine Malicsi** will grace the Hot-Air Balloon Fiesta. Two years ago, Captain Roa revived the Miss Aviation pageant to add glamour to flying. Past Miss Aviation winners include **Mary Ann Corrales** (1955), **Josephine Estrada** (1961) and **Lotis Key** (1971).



At the 2016 Philippine International Hot-Air Balloon Fiesta (PIHABF) are Capt. Joy Roa, Miss Aviation Philippines first runner-up Richelieu Emory Santos, Miss Aviation Philippines 2016 Kristine Malicsi and second runner-up Trizia Abaya, then Clark Air Base Commanding General PAF Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Delgado, and former Clark Development Corp. president and CEO (now DOTR Secretary) Ari Tugade with Clark Air Base Fly Boys.

Photo from [www.facebook.com/MissAviationPhilippinesOfficial](http://www.facebook.com/MissAviationPhilippinesOfficial)



A skydiver carries the Philippine flag at the opening of the PIHABF in Clark, Pampanga last year.



Colorful hot-air balloons fly over Clark, Pampanga in



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On its 21st year, the PIHABF goes one notch higher by flying in cultural performers. There will also be dervish dancers, carpet weavers and pottery craftsmen from Turkey.

The Hot-Air Balloon Fiesta complements the foreign cultural talents by bringing in the Amganad Kids Music Ensemble from the Cordilleras. The ensemble performs a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage — the *Hudhud* chant, a traditional Ifugao song and dance narrative about ancestral heroes, religious beliefs and the life-nurturing rice cultivation.

At the Fiesta, pilots will exhibit their skills maneuvering planes and gliders; paragliders will avoid skydivers falling from the sky; aerobatic artists will wow the crowd with stunts; young pilots will take turns at a balloon-bursting competition; hobbyists will demonstrate remarkable twists and turns with radio-controlled aircraft. (This year's skydiving performers are former Red Devils formation skydivers from the UK.)

Visitors can opt for hot-air balloon rides (32 air balloons this year from 12 countries), discovery flights (helicopter rides, ultralight, microlight and glider planes) Five jumbo-sized balloons from Turkey can take 12 passengers, so the queues should be faster. (You can book your seat in advance at [rides2017@philballoonfest.net](mailto:rides2017@philballoonfest.net).)

The more daring can buy a ticket to jump tandem sky diving with professional skydivers.

For those with acrophobia, the Fiesta teems with earth-bound activities: kite flying, for the young and young at heart; flying schools demonstration and explanation of flying machines; and road racers burn tires on the asphalt. For the kids, there's horseback riding, camel riding, animal feeding, archery, and many more. There will also be a concert night with foreign artists from New Zealand, South Africa and Zimbabwe who will perform alongside Filipino artists and bands. Everyone, of course, participates at his own risk.

Expect a new high! ✨

(You may e-mail me at [joanneraeramirez@yahoo.com](mailto:joanneraeramirez@yahoo.com))

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# Reality check for Reds

**C**ommies really are at the losing end, with Rody not only terminating the peace talks with the Reds, but also arresting a commie rebel who was on bail and who allegedly served as a consultant of the National Democratic Front (NDF) in the peace talks that ended, was arrested at a Davao City checkpoint.

The arrest of the consultant of the NDF was confirmed by a lawmaker yesterday.

At a press conference, Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Zarate said Ariel Arbitrario, an NDF consultant in southern Mindanao, was arrested by elements of the Task Force Davao.

The arrest came after President Rodrigo Duterte ordered the termination of peace talks, and the subsequent arrest of political prisoners who were released to join peace talks between the Philippine government and the NDF.

Rody over the weekend tagged the communist group as terrorists, and said he has tasked the military and the Bureau of Immigration "to be on the lookout" for NDF consultants returning to the country.

That an arrest has been made on an NDF consultant proves that Rody means what he says.

It is now the NDF that wants the peace talks to continue, and has come out to state that it rejects the termination of the peace negotiations with the government and expressed optimism for both parties to meet again this month.

"The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) joins the Filipino people in rejecting the declaration the other night of GRP President Rodrigo Duterte that he will terminate peace negotiations between the GRP and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines and that he is dissolving his negotiating panel," the CPP said.

In reply to Rody's statement that the commies are terrorists and will be arrested immediately upon their return or should they



Ninez Cacho-Olivares

hide abroad, he will have the international police hunt them down and arrest them, the CPP-NDF claimed that the government cannot arrest any of them since the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (Jasig) is still in force.

"If carried out, these shall be considered as gross acts of treachery and grave violations of the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees," adding that "the Jasig was reaffirmed by the Duterte regime and the NDFP just a few months ago. It guarantees non-reprisal against each other's peace personnel," the CPP said.

Yet how can the Jasig still be in force if the peace talks have been terminated? But the commies claim that there has been no formal termination of the peace talks.

"Having not received any formal notice of termination from the GRP, however, we consider as standing the GRP-NDF peace negotiations. We continue to look forward to scheduled talks on February 22-24 and April 2-6," the CPP said.

C'mon. There is no need for a joint formal termination of the peace talks, just as one party can unilaterally order a ceasefire, so can the other party terminate the peace talks.

The Reds here and abroad, certainly know they have lost out in their claimed bid for peace with the Rody government. They probably believed that they could keep the

peace talks going and keep on demanding for more, while they keep playing the government with their claims of "sincerity," despite evidence of the Reds' continued killings of government troops, and during the ceasefire that both the government and the Reds had declared.

Naturally, as it always happens, the Reds try to get out of it by claiming that it was the government forces that shot at them first, and their shooting back was a defensive move.

Both the government peace negotiators and the communist negotiators know that peace cannot be achieved, mainly because if they do agree on a peace pact with the Rody government, they will have no leverage at all.

Why are the Reds asking for the release of all 450 prisoners, if they really are sincere about attaining peace and returning to the fold of the Constitution and the law?

It is because these are the leaders and fighters of the Reds and will be returning to their mother units as they take up arms against the government again.

It does not make sense at all for the Reds to demand that all 430 Red prisoners, whom the left calls political prisoners, to be freed at this stage of the peace talks game.

These rebels will not lay down their arms, that is for sure. What other demand from government can they have for leverage, should they lay down their arms? Besides, all these self-exiled commies want to continue with the good life paid for by the Filipino taxpayers, as long as the peace talks are continued.

The commies never showed any sincerity in peace talks, and they just blew their chances again of finally giving up their armed struggle.

These commies should face reality. They can never achieve their dream of establishing a communist state in the Philippines, and with their leaders in control.

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# Editorial

## Peace talks with the communists and communist prisoners

It is welcome and reassuring to hear President Duterte elucidate a new government policy on peace talks with the communist insurgents, whom he bluntly labels "terrorists." He articulates a more clear-eyed perspective on the 46-year-old communist insurgency, which is the oldest communist rebellion on the planet, and on the unending demand of the CPP/NDF/NPA for the release of communist political prisoners. And he has told the Armed Forces to prepare for war against the communists.

If one or all of the more than 400 communist prisoners are freed by the government, what guarantees are provided by the CPP/NDF/NPA that they will not wage war anew against the government once given liberty?

This is the common-sense question that is being asked by every soldier of the Armed Forces, and by every law-abiding citizen of the Republic.

They fear justifiably that the prisoners' release could mean 46 additional years of the communist insurgency in our land.

They are suspicious that from the way the CPP-NPA is talking, there will never be an end to the communist rebellion, and the many miseries it has been inflicting on our people, our communities, and businesses across the land.

A resolute war effort is a sound course of action for the nation to take because these compatriots of ours have been engaged in rebellion against the Republic for so long, and the cost to the nation has been colossal.

Rebellion should not be confused with mere political dissent. Rebellion is organized opposition to a government or political authority, whereas dissent is only an expression of disagreement with authority. Rebellion is armed and violent; dissent is largely vocal and symbolic.

Rebellion is one of the reasons recognized by the Constitution for the declaration of martial law and suspension of the writ of habeas corpus by the President, acting as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces.

There is much confusion in the public mind about the gravity of the act of rebellion because of the way known rebels flit in and out of detention, and then act as though they have done nothing unlawful.

We raise this issue because in democracies more mature than ours, the act of rebellion is treated with tough-minded application of the law and utter seriousness, in a way that would preclude the return of the rebel to armed struggle against the government.

Take the United States, for instance. In the words of one noted conservative pundit: "Once you take up arms against the United States, you become an enemy combatant, thereby forfeiting the privileges of citizenship and the protections of the Constitution, including due process. You retain only the protection of the laws of war – no more and no less than those of foreign enemy combatants. A senior counsel of the American Center for Law and Justice, suggests stripping such traitors of their citizenship, thereby formalizing their extra-constitutional status."

In the Philippines, we tend to be softheaded and sentimental in our treatment of citizens who rebel against the Republic.

Communist rebels have standing as citizens of the Republic. They can even run for important political post, and sit in office if they win.

We have passed a law that inexplicably provides reparations to rebels who suffered disabilities or torturous treatment as a result of their rebellion.

President Duterte, in a grand gesture, invited the communists to serve in his administration, and take over the administration of key government departments.

The President has been awakened from his fantasy of a complete peace agreement with the CPP/NDF/NPA by the triple shock of 1) AFP soldiers/officers killed by the NPA during a supposed ceasefire; 2) the announced lifting of the communist ceasefire on February 10; and 3) the monotonous demand for the release of communist prisoners.

He sees that resolution of the insurgency is possible through the earnest prosecution of counter-insurgency measures, and that the people will support him in this effort.